

Islamist MP calls for multi-party system in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A Sudanese member of parliament has called for the gradual creation of a multi-party political system based on Islamic concepts of freedom, justice and equality. In an interview in the Al Rai Al Akher (alternative opinion) daily newspaper, Islamist Deputy Amin Banani said such system could be reached through "phases and programmes that we, as Sudanese, agree upon." Mr. Banani, deputy chairman of the legal committee in the national assembly called for the formation of a broad-based political front of all political hues "as a step for creating political groups."

Jordan Times

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جورن تائمز يوسيفيسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Prime minister arrives in Tunis

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday arrived in Tunis on a four-day official visit during which he is scheduled to meet Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and will hold talks with his Tunisian counterpart Hamed Qarawi. Upon his arrival, Dr. Majali described Jordanian-Tunisian relations as very strong and further stated that the two countries will discuss a range of topics which include inter-Arab relations and the Middle East peace process. The premier is accompanied by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Bassam Saket, Minister of Culture and Youth Qasem Abu Ain and Minister of Tourism Akel Biftaji. Dr. Majali was seen off by HRH Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and many ministers and officials.

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Hizbollah attacks Israeli position in south Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia launched a dawn attack Wednesday against an Israeli position in the huffer zone it occupies in southern Lebanon, security sources said. No casualties were immediately reported from the attack at Sojud on the edge of the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone." The Shiite Muslim Hizbollah said in a statement issued in Beirut its militia had fired machine guns and shells on a "Zionist forces position, inflicting losses." Hizbollah also reported a clash between fighters from its armed wing, the Islamic resistance, and an Israeli patrol in the region of Jebel Rafii, outside the occupied zone, causing "casualties among Israeli ranks." Israeli artillery responded by bombarding hills around the Hizbollah stronghold of Iqlim Al Tuffah with around 30 shells while helicopters flew overhead, Lebanese police said, without saying if there were any casualties.

Kurd rebels kill 3 soldiers in Turk oil well attack

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Kurdish separatist guerrillas have killed three soldiers and wounded two in an attack on an oil well installation in eastern Turkey, security officials said Wednesday. The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels attacked the oil well, belonging to the state-owned TPAO Oil Company, Tuesday night in the eastern province of Batman, an official told Reuters. No rebel casualties were reported. The fighting took place as Turkish troops pressed on with a cross-border operation against guerrilla positions in northern Iraq, from where the PKK launches attacks into southeastern Turkey. More than 24,000 people have died in 12 years of conflict between troops and the PKK, fighting for self rule in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

U.S. and Kuwaiti troops start desert exercises

KUWAIT (AP) — About 1,300 U.S. soldiers have begun more than two months of desert military exercises with Kuwait's armed forces, the U.S. embassy said Wednesday. The exercise, dubbed intrinsic Action 97-2, is aimed at improving readiness and enhancing the ability of the two forces to defend Kuwait, the embassy said in a statement. The exercise, which began Tuesday, is scheduled to end Sept. 9. War games are part of a 10-year defence agreement signed with the U.S. shortly after the 1991 Gulf war. The U.S. played the leading role in victing Iraqi troops from Kuwait. U.S. soldiers will use equipment prepositioned in Kuwait, the embassy said. These include tanks and other weapons sufficient to equip an army brigade of about 5,000 troops.

Syrian FM warns of collapse in Middle East peace process

LATAKIA (AFP) — Syria's foreign minister opened a meeting of eight Arab nations here on Wednesday with harsh criticism of the United States and Israel for letting the peace process dwindle. "The peace process is perishing because Israel has closed all the doors," Farouq Al Sharaa said on the first day of a meeting of foreign ministers and ministers of state from Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf states. Mr. Sharaa also expressed surprise that the United States was "making efforts in Turkish-Israeli marine rescue operations and letting the peace process drown."

Netanyahu in trouble over Sharon appointment; loses coalition trust

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Badly weakened by rifts in his coalition government, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought Wednesday to rally support by giving a key cabinet post to hardline rightwinger Ariel Sharon. But indications that Mr. Netanyahu planned to give Mr. Sharon not only the powerful finance minister's job but also a seat on the inner security cabinet which runs peace negotiations with the Arabs had the few moderates left in government up in arms. Foreign Minister David Levy and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai were leading the opposition to such a promotion, which they charge will aggravate the crisis in the peace process and increase Israel's international isolation. The messy dispute forced Mr. Netanyahu to postpone the announcement of a cabinet reshuffle, originally expected Tuesday, until next week, officials said.

Iraq dismisses U.N. claim of putting obstacles

BAGHDAD (R) — An Iraqi official has expressed surprise at comments by a U.N. official who said Baghdad had given no sign that it would allow U.N. weapons teams to inspect all sites. A statement by the head of the Iraqi Monitoring Directorate (IMD), carried by newspapers on Wednesday, responded to remarks by Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of eliminating Iraq's prohibited weapons. "We are astonished at his statements in which he claimed that Iraq is still not setting free the hands of U.N. inspectors," said the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah, quoting the head of the IMD, which is in charge of coordination with UNSCOM. His name was not given by the paper. Mr. Duelfer said on Tuesday after four days of talks with officials in Baghdad that while Iraq had shown readiness to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors, there was no indication it would allow them full access to all sites. "Iraq did not indicate,

reanean Sea this summer with U.S. participation. Mr. Sharaa described the military alliance between Turkey and Israel as a "defiant act that has appeared while efforts are being made to achieve peace" in the region. "The presence of military vessels several miles from Latakia should concern us all," Mr. Sharaa added, without identifying the ships. The meeting in Latakia, where President Hafez Assad has a summer home, groups signatories to the Damascus Declaration — Egypt, Syria, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Damascus Declaration was concluded after the 1991 Gulf war and calls for economic, security and other types of cooperation. Although it has never been implemented, the eight members' foreign ministers meet periodically. Of the eight, only Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel. Peace talks between Israel and Syria were put on ice in February last year while Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have been deadlocked since March when work began on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem. Mr. Sharaa accused Israel of "raising tension in the region by creating settlements, increasing threats of war and repressing Palestinians" in the occupied territories. Besides the deadlocked peace process, the diplomats are expected to discuss calls for an end to economic cooperation with Israel, and the creation of an Arab common market. Syria has been waging a campaign against the staging of the fourth economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa scheduled for November in the Qatari capital, Doha, because Israel is to be invited. Syria, which believes that holding Arab-Israeli economic meetings is "useless" at a time when the peace process is frozen, boycotted the first three regional economic conferences.

however, that it would comply with the requirements...for an immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to information, locations and documents," Mr. Duelfer said. The IMD head responded: "It seems that he ignores Iraq's security and sovereignty interests, contradicting even some of the texts of the recent (U.N.) Security Council resolution." The council unanimously warned Iraq on Saturday it would face further sanctions if it did not allow U.N. arms inspectors to search sensitive sites. The Iraqi leadership rejected the resolution, saying it was unjustified. Rolf Ekeus, UNSCOM's chairman, complained to the council that Iraq had this month blocked his arms inspectors from three sites and Iraqi personnel aboard U.N. helicopters, or Iraqi aircraft flying nearby, had endangered the U.N. craft and their crews assisting U.N. ground teams. "The problems, which Ekeus briefed the council on, were simple and they were settled during the inspection," the Iraqi official said.

Meridor's departure and the appointment of Mr. Sharon to a key position will just strengthen the radicals," said Yehuda Lancry, a member of parliament in Mr. Levy's Geshet Party, in an interview with AFP. Geshet's five deputies and four Likud members of parliament demonstrated their disenchantment with Mr. Netanyahu by boycotting an opposition vote of confidence Tuesday. The motion was defeated by 55 deputies to 50, but the open defection of the nine coalition deputies was widely seen by Israeli commentators as a severe blow to Mr. Netanyahu's leadership. "Another victory like this and the government is done for," wrote an editorialist for the Maariv newspaper. The Haaretz newspaper said several Likud members believed Mr. Netanyahu has lost so much credibility within the party that the government would fall by August.

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ANNEXING PATCHES AROUND THE HOME- LAND: The Israeli parliament voted Wednesday to consider legislation calling for the annexation to Israel of all Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories. A Palestinian policeman puts a national flag under the eyes of the Israeli soldiers during clashes between the Israeli army and Palestinian protesters on the land which was confiscated by the Israeli army to open a road for Jewish settlers in Rafah City in the Gaza Strip (AFP photo)

Erekat highlights Israel's nuclear programme threat

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Israel's secret nuclear programme is an environmental threat to the Middle East region and risks triggering a dangerous arms race, a top Palestinian official warned on Tuesday. In a speech to the U.N. Earth Summit, Saeb Erekat, a senior Palestinian negotiator with Israel, said that "Israel's nuclear programme, which is not subjected to international supervision and regulations, threatens the region with a dangerous environmental disaster." He added that "its possession of nuclear weapons will force the region into a destructive nuclear race."

Man left brain dead by PNA security — report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian has been left brain dead after being arrested by President Yasser Arafat's personal guard in a dispute with one of its agents, a human rights group said Wednesday. Nasser Radwan was arrested at his home in Gaza on Monday and taken away in a car belonging to Force 17, Mr. Arafat's presidential security, the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) said. He was taken to hospital the next morning with a fractured skull and his family was told by doctors that he was brain dead from a blow to the skull, the group said. The head of the National Security Forces in Gaza, Abdul Razak Mujaidah, confirmed to AFP that Mr. Radwan was in "critical condition after his arrest by one of the security forces." "We are awaiting the medical report and will launch an investigation," he said. The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) issued a statement condemning what it called a "barbaric and irresponsible act" and demanding "a barsb penalty" for those who committed it. It was not clear whether Mr. Radwan was a member of Hamas, which is the highest opposition group to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and has in the past been the victim of widespread crackdowns by its security forces. The PHRMG said Mr. Radwan's arrest was the result of an undefined personal dispute with Mahmud Zayyed, the bodyguard of a Force 17 colonel, Abu Nasser Freihat.

Another Turkish MP deserts Ciller's party

Combined agency dispatches A RENEGADE deputy resigned Wednesday from Turkish conservative leader Tansu Ciller's True Path Party, boosting an attempt to set up an anti-Islamist coalition. Parliament officials said Deputy Hasan Denizkurdu announced his resignation in a four-page letter he sent to the speaker's office. "I am resigning from the party today to avoid going through a disciplinary process similar to the inquisition courts," his resignation statement said. Mr. Denizkurdu was facing party disciplinary action for refusing to oppose prime minister-designate Mesut Yilmaz's bid to form a secularist government in place of the Islamist-led coalition established at the end of last June. "The coalition put a strain on the country before even completing its first year in office and the basic principles of the republic have become open to question," Mr. Denizkurdu said. Despite the resignation, True Path officials said Ms. Ciller had gained assurances from a large majority of her deputies that they would not vote for Mr. Yilmaz's proposed coalition. Turkish conservative Mr. Yilmaz said Wednesday he would not meet rival Ms. Ciller again in the search for an anti-Islamist coalition unless his opponent recognised him as prime minister-designate. "It is impossible for me to meet Ms. Ciller if she does not change her attitude," Mr. Yilmaz told a news conference. Mr. Yilmaz, leader of the main opposition Motherland Party, was to hold a news conference at noon in parliament on his bid to keep the Islamists out of power. President Suleyman Demirel has appointed Mr.

reporters last week that the Israelis were insisting on restricting the mission to Israel and the occupied territories, and that "I couldn't agree to such a narrow remit." On Friday, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) government called for the United Nations to "impose economic and political sanctions against Israel" for its violation of signed peace agreements and settlement expansion policy. The Israeli government's decision to go ahead with the construction of the Jhal Abu Ghneim settlement, triggered the suspension of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Mr. Arafat has insisted Israel freezes settlement construction as a condition for renewed peace talks, including on a final status agreement for the occupied territories. According to Palestinian diplomats, Mr. Erekat held talks in Washington with U.S. negotiator Dennis Ross on Tuesday before travelling to New York.

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Yilmaz to form a coalition to replace the one-year-old government under Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who resigned last week under army pressure. Mr. Yilmaz has given himself until early next week to present Mr. Demirel with a cabinet list. He has won the backing of secularist deputies from most opposition parties but needs the support of around a dozen True Path deputies to win a vote of confidence in the 550-member parliament. True Path leader, Ms. Ciller, allied with the Welfare Party of Mr. Erbakan, Tuesday rejected an offer from Mr. Yilmaz to join a coalition led by him. Mr. Erbakan resigned to resolve a growing dispute with the military over religious activism. He had proposed the formation of a revamped coalition including his Islamists under Ms. Ciller's leadership.

Israel holds military drills on occupied Golan Heights

KIRYAT SHMONA (AFP) — The Israeli army on Wednesday completed major military manoeuvres on the occupied Golan Heights, among the biggest exercises in more than a year, military sources said.

They said it was a routine operation to check the army's state of readiness and had nothing to do with possible tension with Syria.

Air force, artillery and infantry units took part in the exercises, which were held over several days and attended by Israeli chief-of-staff.

General Amnon Shahak, and President Ezer Weizman.

Israel occupied the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and annexed it in 1981. The strategic plateau is one of the key sticking points in Israeli-Syrian peace talks, which were put on ice in February last year.

Earlier this month Geo. Shahak set alarms bells ringing by declaring that Syria had prepared for a possible surprise attack on the Jewish state.

"They are speaking more and more seriously in Syria about the possibility of war with Israel," he said.

Gen. Shahak also highlighted a series of unexplained troop shifts last summer in which Syria deployed elite units near the Golan Heights.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam responded by warning that his country would reply to any Israeli attack, but insisted Syria was committed to the path of peace.

Two women executed at Swaga

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two women convicted of murdering a 45-year-old man in Mafrq in April of 1996, were hanged at dawn at Swaga prison south of Amman, judicial sources said.

Amira Salem, 31, and Eidah Hussein, 25, were the seventh and eighth persons to be put to death in the Kingdom since the beginning of year.

According to a judicial source, both women were declared dead in 10 minutes. None of the women asked for anything before the execution was carried out, the source said.

The two women were sentenced to death by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of killing, mutilating and decapitating Ms. Salem's husband Murad Yousef, 45, on April 10.

According to court documents, Ms. Salem conspired to kill her husband as "he physically abused her on regular basis and threatened to marry another woman and abandon her."

A judicial source had told the Jordan Times recently that Ms. Salem also plotted to kill her husband as he regularly brought other women to his house in her presence, "with disregard to his wife's feelings."

The court said that Ms. Salem asked her neighbour Ms. Hussein to help her kill her husband, a mechanic, in retribution for such abuses, and purchased a gun three months prior to the murder.

The court said that the two women planned to deceive Mr. Yousef by offering him Ms. Hussein as a mistress, rather than him marrying another woman and he agreed.

On the night of the murder, Ms. Hussein went to the couple's house and asked the victim to lay face down on the couple's bed so she could undress while his wife watched.

"Ms. Hussein then drew a gun and shot him four times in the head and back. The two women then drank coffee and smoked cigarettes," the court papers said.

The two women then mangled the man's body, placed it in plastic bags, burned the

head and boiled it to conceal the crime, the court said.

A Royal Decree was issued recently approving the women's death after the Court of Cassation ratified the Criminal Court ruling.

One more execution set for today

One more person is expected to be executed at the same prison after being convicted of murdering a man and a woman in Jabal Marikh in Amman in November 1994.

Jamal Najjar, 23, was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of the premeditated murder of his father Mahmoud, 61, and of the attempted murder of his sister-in-law, Sawwan A., 23, on Nov. 1.

A second man, Mahmoud Adib, also sentenced to death for killing Sawwan and for complicity in the murder of Mahmoud had his sentence commuted.

According to court papers, a friend of Jamal Najjar informed him that his sister-in-law had had an affair with another man and that his father knew about it and was protecting his daughter-in-law.

Court transcripts said that Mr. Najjar purchased a gun 15 days before the murder.

On the morning of the incident, it added, Mr. Najjar went to his father's house, shot him in the head while he was sleeping, went to Sawwan's room and shot her twice in the head then left the house.

Mr. Najjar met with Mr. Adib on the way and informed him of what he did, and the two returned to the murder scene, and found Sawwan alive, the court said.

According to the court, Mr. Adib drew a knife and stabbed the woman twice in the back, then both men fled the house.

Mr. Najjar, who was arrested two days later, told police in his confession that he killed his father and attempted to kill Sawwan to cleanse his family's honour.

The prosecution had charged that Mr. Najjar had plotted to kill his father for financial reasons.

Arab League demands trial of Italian soldiers

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab League demanded Wednesday that Italian soldiers be brought to trial on accusations they tortured Somali during the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the African country.

"The Arab League strongly condemns the atrocities committed by some units of the Italian army in Somalia in 1993," the league's deputy head in charge of Somali affairs, Ahmad Ben Helli, told reporters.

He said league officials had contacted the Italian authorities "to ask them to publish all the details concerning this crime and to judge the criminals who committed it."

A former interpreter for the Italian contingent in Somalia, a member of the Arab League, has accused an Italian army officer of raping and murdering a 13-year-old boy in 1994.

He also alleged that in 1993 Italian soldiers beat Somali civilians, leading to three deaths.

The Italian press has published photographs in the past two weeks showing Italian soldiers torturing a prisoner and raping a civilian woman.

Three separate investigations launched in Italy focusing on three soldiers in particular.

The Italian troops were in Somalia as part of a U.N. force that tried to protect food going to drought victims from attacks by clan militias, but eventually became embroiled in the clan fighting and withdrew ignominiously in March 1995.

Egypt to set up museum in former U.S. consulate

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's cultural ministry has bought the former U.S. consulate in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria for \$3.5 million and will turn it into a museum, U.S. embassy officials said Wednesday.

A spokesman for the ministry confirmed the purchase and said a special ceremony would be held soon to mark the handover.

The 1932 French-style two-storey mansion in the residential Latin quarter of Alexandria, "is a jewel of a building," said Louis Afram, the consulate's former executive administrator.

It features granite columns in the lobby, Italian marble floors and mirror-paneled doors.

The U.S. consulate bought the embassy in 1960 from the widow of Lebanese wood magnate Jacques Bassili, whose name is still used to refer to wood silos in the Alexandria harbour.

An embassy spokesman said the U.S. mission had refused to sell the consulate to a private investor and instead offered it to the Egyptian government "knowing they would make good use of it."

CAIRO (AFP) — The owner of a Cairo apartment block that collapsed in October, killing 64 people, was sentenced Wednesday to seven years in jail with hard labour for "involuntary homicide."

However, the State Security High Court cleared businessman Rauf Wissa of having added five extra floors to the 29-year-old building without authorisation in 1976.

A large crowd, many of them families of the victims, was in court to hear the verdicts.

The court also sentenced engineers Ahmad Mahmoud Ryad and Ashraf Nagari to three years of hard labour and ordered them to pay a total of \$96,000 in compensation for their role in the tragedy, which also left 15 people injured.

The two men were also barred working for a year, while a third engineer Abdul Azziz Fahmi Mohammad was acquitted.

The 12-storey block at Heliopolis, a smart district north of Cairo, collapsed when supporting walls and pillars were removed during



Picture dated Oct. 28 shows rescuers looking for victims of the collapsed 12-floor building, Cairo state high court sentenced Egyptian businessman Rauf Wissa for seven years in jail with hard labour for "involuntary homicide"

Court jails Egyptian for 7 years over deadly building collapse

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The 12-storey block at Heliopolis, a smart district north of Cairo, collapsed when supporting walls and pillars were removed during

renovation work on a bank office on the ground floor.

The victims included 44 Egyptians, seven Jordanians, five Saudis, four Lebanese, 145 Palestinians, one Sudanese and an American woman.

After the Heliopolis disaster, Egyptian authorities toughened sanctions against those responsible for building collapses.

According to Al Ahram newspaper, there are some 700,000 building code violations in Egypt.

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Iraq gets 130,000 tonnes of food imports under U.N. accord

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has received almost 130,000 tonnes of food imports over the last two weeks under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, the news agency INA and official newspapers said Wednesday.

A Vietnamese ship with 14,000 tonnes of Thai wheat arrived the same day at the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr on the Gulf.

Three other boats with a total of 32,000 tonnes of wheat, beans and vegetable oil have discharged their cargo since Monday. And

last week, Iraq received another 84,000 tonnes of French wheat.

Iraq started to export limited amounts of oil on Dec. 10 to finance imports of badly-needed food and medicine, under the accord with the United Nations.

The food started arriving in March but only a single consignment of medicine has so far reached Iraq. According to the United Nations, food imports up to last week amounted to 850,000 tonnes.

The oil-for-food deal allows sanctions-hit Iraq to export \$2 billion worth of crude every six months.

The accord was renewed on June 4 but Iraq, complaining of long delays in U.N. approval of its food and medical contracts, has suspended exports until a new food distribution plan is finalised with the United Nations.

Oil Minister Amr Rashid, whose country has been under embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, said Tuesday in Madrid that exports would resume in a week to 10 days.

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Military situation favourable to Sudanese rebels — Garang

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — Sudanese rebels have advanced 800 kilometres in southern Sudan since March and the military situation there is "very favourable," rebel leader John Garang told AFP Wednesday in a telephone interview from Asmara.

Colonel Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been fighting since 1983

to rid the largely Christian and animist south from domination by the Arabised, Islamic north, declared that the regime of President Omar Bashir "cannot be improved, but removed."

Speaking at the end of a meeting in the Eritrean capital of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which groups southern rebels and northern oppositionists who have taken up arms, Col.

Garang said the alliance would improve coordination of military actions under joint command in the east, the south, and the central Nuba Mountains.

"I am the head of the joint command," he said.

The SPLA has failed to capture Juba, the main city in the south. Col. Garang said it should not be considered as an isolated target, and that action had to be

coordinated on all fronts.

He ascribed rebel victories during the current offensive in part to materiel captured from government troops, including tanks.

He charged that the Sudanese military were using foreigners, some of them African, to train their troops.

"There is no reason for war," he said. "We are not against the unity of Sudan.

We want a secular state. We are not separatist."

Col. Garang dismissed a peace agreement reached between Khartoum and rebel splinter leader Riek Machar in April as "an agreement between allies," adding that Mr. Machar, leader of the South Sudan Independence Movement, did not have the political qualifications to open discussions with the NDA.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:35French Programmes
16:00Out of This World
16:30 They Came From Outer Space

18:00French Programmes
19:00News in French
19:30News Headline

19:35Step By Step
20:00World Echo
20:30 New Talk Show — The Oprah Winfrey Show

21:10Kung Fu
22:00News in English
22:30Feature Film
01:05Soccer Match — Peru vs Uruguay

PRAYER TIMES

03:50Fajr
05:25(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:37Dhuhr
16:17Asr
19:48Maghreb
21:23Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

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Anglican Church Tel. 652326
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

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Mini/Max. Temperatures

Amman18/30
Aqaba25/38
Deserts16/32
Jordan Valley26/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeim825446
Dr. Ayman Al Mahasib875748
Dr. Jamal Jarrar847351
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab602507
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Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asena pharmacy637055
Nairookh pharmacy623672
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Najib pharmacy847632
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Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Najib pharmacy847632
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IRBID:
Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir276852
Al Quds pharmacy(—)

AMMAN:
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Dr. Jamal Jarrar847351
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Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir276852
Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Al Sayyid986702
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre813813/32
Khalifeh Maternity644281/6
Aklleh Maternity642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity642362
Mathbas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen77101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital602240/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital(09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital(02)775555
Greek Catholic Hospital(02)727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital(02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:00Sanaa (RJ)
09:15Muscat (RJ)
09:45New Delhi (RJ)
09:45Dub

Queen opens women's conference...

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened the sixth annual conference of the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) entitled "Women and National Development" at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, a Royal Court statement said.

According to BPWC President Hind Abdul Jabbar, the two-day conference will be comprised of "papers presented by experts on topics related to efficiency in production, privatisation, small businesses, laws, the information revolution and intellectual property."

The conference will end with a round table meeting of economists, lawyers, businesspersons and representatives of the chambers of industry and commerce.

Queen Noor, the honorary president of the federation of BPWC, noted that two of the main obstacles facing women entrepreneurs are the initial high cost of personal financial investment and the inability to obtain credit either due to lack of knowledge and information about credit institutions or insufficient guarantees to qualify for credit, the statement said.

The Queen expressed optimism that the BPWC's new "business incubator service for women" would help redress these problems. The "incubators," situated in the BPWC's new headquarters, consist of a private work space area providing computer, phone, fax and photocopying facilities, and are in close proximity to the club's information library.

These facilities, available at minimum cost, will relieve

entrepreneurs from a heavy cost burden, the statement said.

To facilitate the receiving of loans, the BPWC will guarantee any approved loans and eventually hopes to start its own credit system.

A business advisor is also available to help with small business management skills such as taxation, marketing, accounting and legal problems.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamser asserted that micro-enterprises run by women have a high rate of success, which is why the ministry gives women "priority in obtaining these projects." He stated that women's participation in the labour force, estimated to be 15.5 per cent is very low compared with men at 70 per cent.

He added that the percentage was particularly low in leadership and high administrative positions, where women's participation is estimated to be only 8.5 per cent, the statement said.

According to the minister, women mainly work in three sectors: education (39 per cent), health and administration (forty per cent) and private sector (21 per cent).

President of the Amman Chamber of Commerce Haidar Murad added that "our efforts to expand women's opportunities and participation in Arab societies should not make us forget the source of our societies' strength, namely the role of women as the anchors of families."

President of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women In'am

Mufri quoted the Queen's speech at the last International Federation of Business and Professional Women's Conference, saying that the BPWC has played "a vital role in promoting women's legal and social rights, in providing legal advice and representation for needy women in courts of law, and in promoting social, political and environmental programmes."

"Its contribution to the establishment of educational and occupational training programmes has been much appreciated nationally as has its business advice and support for women entrepreneurs," she said.

The BPWC is a voluntary association affiliated with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, which consists of one million women in 125 countries worldwide.

Its three main projects are small business counselling for women, information and documentation for women's studies as well as a consultancy service officer for women.

In 1995, a hot line was established to provide legal counselling for women. The BPWC is currently carrying out a grassroots programme to enhance women's participation in the 1997 parliamentary elections in cooperation with the Canadian Embassy and the European Union, the statement said.

The Queen was received by Mr. Mamser, Ms. Mufri, Ms. Hind Abdul Jabbar, Mr. Murad and members of the Amman Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Jordanian political stability main topic of Paris conference

By Hind-Lara Mango
in Paris
and Francesca Ciriaci
in Amman

FACTORS BEHIND Jordan's political stability over the past five decades were the focus of an international symposium which concluded in Paris yesterday. The two-day symposium was organised by the Centre of Studies and Research on the Contemporary Middle East (CERMOC) and was held at the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA).

Opening the conference on Tuesday on behalf of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, President of AL Bayt University Adnan Bakhit emphasised that national unity in Jordan has been enhanced by an open and continuous dialogue between the Kingdom's civil society and the leadership. Jordanian national unity, Dr. Bakhit said, has not only led to stability and security, but also has been the impetus for economic development.

The Crown Prince's speech emphasised Jordan's pioneering role among Arab members of the international community in promoting better understanding among different civilisations through inter-cultural and inter-faith dialogue.

The symposium was one of several activities held to mark the "Jordanian Season" in Paris this year. The season was opened in March by Her Majesty Queen Noor, and has included Jordanian art shows, product and archaeological exhibitions.

Together with Dr. Bakhit, IMA President Camille Cabana and CERMOC-Amman Scientific Secretary Riccardo Bocca addressed the opening session.

Lawrence Tal, a researcher at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London, addressed Tuesday's morning session with a paper on the consolidation of King Hussein's leadership, describing Jordan as an island of stability in the Middle East despite many destabilising factors in its surroundings.

Dr. Tal said the evident cohesion among components of the Jordanian elite — the Monarchy,

the military and the political elite — consolidated the Kingdom and help to overcome regional and internal challenges.

He also emphasised that the individual qualities and leadership skills of the King, who inherited a legacy of political balance by his grandfather, King Abdullah, played a major role in overcoming various crises.

Similar conclusions were reached in a paper presented by Fawaz Gerges, professor of international and Middle Eastern studies at the Sarah Lawrence College in New York, who identified the cohesion of the ruling elite, the absence of organised oppositional constituencies, and the charismatic personality of King Hussein as the main factors behind Jordan's stability.

After presentations by Paul Lalor, lecturer in contemporary Arabic studies at the University of Edinburgh, and Philip Robins, political science lecturer at Oxford University's St. Antony's College, Tuesday's morning session concluded with a floor debate.

In that day's afternoon session, lecturers from Tufts University and CERMOC analysed Jordan's internal dynamics vis-à-vis modernisation, economic reforms, and social-demographic phenomena.

Jordan's foreign policy and the Arab-Israeli conflict were two topics of discussion on Wednesday.

In the morning session, Ra'ed Qadiri, Middle East editor at Oxford Analytica, rejected as "incomplete and simplistic" theories that Jordan's foreign policy was "reactive and passive," and stressed that "the Kingdom's foreign policy from 1967 to 1974 were founded on strategic objectives and steadfast principles of a comprehensive peace agreement with Israel."

Associate Professor at the University of Southern California's School of International Relations, Laurie Brand, said "Jordan's budget security has determined the Kingdom's relations with its Arab neighbours and Kuwait."

The symposium closed with a round-table discussion on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, with the participation of, among others, former Chief

of the Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh, Nuhdeh Hanan, editor of the Arabic weekly, Al Mithaq, and journalist Lami Andoni.

Together with Dr. Bocca, researcher and coordinator of the "Jordan Programme" at CERMOC-Amman, Tareq Tell was coordinating the conference.

Back home, academics and scholars have questioned the absence, at the Paris symposium, of other Jordanian high-calibre contributors and researchers on Jordan's modern and contemporary foreign and internal politics and history.

The critics, who declined to be identified by name, objected to the choice of Jordanian scholars participating in the symposium, claiming that those participants did not necessarily represent majority opinions on such sensitive questions as Jordanian identity and Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

Responding to such criticism and rejecting allegations of having "an agenda" before the symposium was convened, Dr. Bocca stressed that "the proceedings of the [meeting] will be published in a volume to appear during the winter of 1997-98 in the collection of the 'Chaires du CERMOC'."

CERMOC also stated in the symposium's programme that "the themes of the Paris conference are complementary to those of a second meeting scheduled for the summer of 1998 in Amman, where a group of scholars will focus on 'low politics' to document the transformation of Jordanian society during the last 50 years through micro-sociological analyses."

Among the speakers, were Françoise de Bel-Air and Yann Le Troquer, researchers at the CERMOC-Amman, Bryan Davies, from the Faculty of Political Science at Columbia University, Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto's Scarborough College Paul Kingston, and Ghassan Salameh, professor at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris.

... and graduates JUST students

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 1,038 students, Wednesday graduated from the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid, where Her Majesty Queen Noor distributed diplomas and awards to the students, a Royal Court statement said.

The graduation forms part of on-going activities and celebrations of the tenth anniversary of the university, which will culminate in His Majesty King Hussein honouring JUST's outstanding students and receiving an honorary doctorate degree.

In his speech, JUST President Dr. Sa'ed Hijazi maintained that the university is developing its academic curriculum to address the needs of the labour market as well as the continuous evolution

of the fields of science and technology, according to the statement.

To that end, the university has initiated specialisations which include "food processing and medical technology" and emphasis has been given to "languages, administration, human and social sciences and computer studies."

He added that the university stresses the importance of community service as well as extracurricular activities such as music, art and photography.

JUST, comprised of nearly 7,000 students, boasts a diverse student body from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Its educational curriculum

includes medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmaceutical studies, engineering, agriculture and environmental sciences, the statement said.

One of the university's pioneering projects is the King Abdullah Hospital, currently under construction and scheduled to open in early 1999 as a highly specialised medical centre. Medical graduates of JUST are being sent to the United States and United Kingdom to specialise so that they might return and work in the hospital.

King Hussein's Cultural Secretary HRH Prince Ghazi accompanied Queen Noor to the graduation, the statement concluded.

Prince Ra'd attends graduation ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid yesterday attended a graduation ceremony held at Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Development (QZSC) for graduates of a course entitled "Home training for early intervention for mothers of disabled children."

The course, in which 24 women participated, was organised by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) in cooperation with the Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD).

In a ceremonial speech, Prince Ra'd thanked HRH Princess Basma for her continuous efforts in caring for children, especially those suffering from disability and for providing basic care services for children with special needs.

The Prince also thanked Chairman of ACCD HRH Prince Talal Beo Abdul Aziz for his support, the statement said.

He congratulated the graduates, describing their new skills as contributing to overcoming a shortage in services currently provided for the disabled.

QAF Executive Director Awni Bashir summarised the programme as a pioneering attempt to promote the participation of the disabled in all social activities at domestic, scholastic and local community-levels, the statement said.

He conveyed his appreciation for Princess Basma and for all parties involved in this project as well as course participants.

ACCD Programmes and

Projects Coordinator Kawthar Abu Ghazalah underlined ACCD support for all efforts aimed at training the disabled.

On behalf of the participants, Saad Aloni stated that the course has achieved its objectives and participants have become well-trained in assisting the disabled through the skills they have acquired from the course, the statement said.

QAF serves as a national umbrella institution for implementing the home training programme for early intervention for disabled children.

The programme is to be implemented in four areas of the Kingdom — Amman, Marka, Zarqa, and Karak — and the number of families expected to benefit from such training is estimated at 360, the statement concluded.

Software to aid Customs Department

AMMAN (J.T.) — A \$1.8 million project to upgrade the efficiency of the Customs Department was officially launched today at a signing ceremony of the Ministry of Planning and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), according to a UNDP statement.

The two-year project, which aims to improve the Customs Department management with computerisation of procedures and data, has been largely financed by a cost-sharing contribution from the government of Jordan as well as by grants from UNDP and the German aid agency, GTZ.

The project agreement was signed by Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Planning Soleiman Hafez and by UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner, the statement said.

A key component of the project involves the introduction of an Automated System for Customs Data and Management (ASYCUDA), recognised as the international standard for customs clearance

and information.

ASYCUDA is already operational in seventy countries around the world, including Lebanon which recently adopted the system, according to the statement.

ASYCUDA will play a vital role in the government's implementation of an effective economic and fiscal policy by providing policy makers with accurate and timely trade and revenue data, it added.

Additionally, it will enable the Customs Department to disseminate trade-related information to relevant organisations as well as to importers and exporters.

The computerisation of the Customs Department is part of a series of UNDP projects that focus on the area of public sector reform. Last December, UNDP and the Ministry of Planning launched a similar effort to modernise income tax administration with new computer equipment and software.

Dakamseh claims amnesia regarding Baqoura events

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Corporal Ahmad Dakamseh, the Jordanian soldier currently standing trial for the murder of seven Israeli schoolgirls in March, Wednesday testified that he suffers from amnesia as regards the incident.

According to Cpl. Dakamseh, 27, he remembers grabbing his M16 rifle and then finding himself in a Shuneh military office and "everything in between [these events] is a blank."

"As soon as I finished praying, I saw the Israeli schoolgirls laughing, jeering, gesturing, and snapping photos of me and then I went to my rifle and I do not remember anything after that," Cpl. Dakamseh maintained.

The defendant told the court that he felt that these alleged "sarcastic gestures from the girls" were meant "to insult me and my religion, and I felt reduced to an animal."

During a five-hour questioning session in a heavily guarded army base in Naour, the defendant, who pleaded not guilty, swore that he had never planned to kill Israelis.

"The Baqoura area is frequently visited by Israeli tourists, and Israeli farmers and soldiers were sometimes 50 metres away from me, and I never thought of killing them although I was always armed," Cpl. Dakamseh, who also described himself as a sharp shooter, stated.

Israeli tourists, mainly females, "used to provoke us daily when they visited the area and some used to strip and kiss each other in order to intimidate us."

Cpl. Dakamseh told the court that on one occasion he heard Israelis calling "Mohammad!" and then "I was surprised to see their dog responding to the call and running towards them."

The defendant, who served in the Jordan Armed Forces for 11 years, maintained that during his three-month duty in Baqoura, some Israeli tourists violated regulations.

"Some tourists once entered a restricted area,

and when my colleague went to them and asked them to leave, they started taking photos of him, and I personally dragged the photographers out of the restricted area," the defendant said.

In responding to a question posed by Attorney Mjalli, Cpl. Dakamseh cited regulations as prohibiting photography in the area, "but since the Jews do not abide by U.N. resolutions, [why] would they abide by our orders?"

The morning before the incident, Cpl. Dakamseh said that he was seated in a military truck with First Sergeant Salah Nahar, and when the schoolgirls arrived in the area, "Sgt. Nahar told me [to] look at the beautiful girls and I told him [to] think of God and [that he was] a married man."

"He told me [that if I] had the chance to have them, [I] would not [refuse] and I told him that my wife's shoes are better than [those of] all of the girls," Cpl. Dakamseh said.

Three weeks ago, Sgt. Nahar testified that when the schoolgirls arrived in the area, the defendant asked him about his private relations with his wife and "told me that he, himself, had had no intimate relations with his own wife for one month."

Sgt. Nahar also said that Cpl. Dakamseh had ordered him out of the car so that the defendant might sexually stimulate himself.

The defendant, who was questioned for over two hours by Defence Attorney Hussein Mjalli, maintained that he was detained for 79 days, "in which time I was subjected to extended interrogations, deprived of sleep and subjected to threats and duress on the part of the investigators."

"They told me that if I did not tell the truth, they would wipe me out and seat me in the electric chair," he said.

Cpl. Dakamseh stated that while interrogated, he was blindfolded and repeatedly asked whether he was affiliated to any political party, international organisations, or countries such as Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, or Lebanon.

"I told them no and insisted that my actions were a result of what happened to me that morning and that I was not affiliated to any [group]," the soldier said.

He added that investigators tried to push him to confess that he was paid by "Israelis to commit the killing, but I informed them that I would not betray my country and that I do not deal with Israelis."

He also testified that all of the Jordanian soldiers who were with him on the morning of the shootings were arrested with him and detained in the same office.

All soldiers testifying over the past three weeks maintained that they had not been arrested but merely questioned about the March 13 incident.

Also during the court session an expert witness in psychology, Major Fayrouz Sayeigh, 39, told the court that the defendant suffered from an anti-social personality disorder which, he said, is a congenital disturbance.

The witness, who examined the defendant for the past week upon a court injunction, stated that Cpl. Dakamseh was possessed of irresponsible and abrupt behavioural patterns.

"Although he knows the results of his irresponsible acts, he still does what he wants and does not take consequences into consideration," she asserted.

Maj. Sayeigh also maintained that the defendant shows contradictory symptoms and tendencies to hurt himself.

Any perceived provocation might have a greater effect on Cpl. Dakamseh than it would an average person, she added.

Maj. Sayeigh also testified that Cpl. Dakamseh had sexual fantasies and "he informed me that he has been engaged in bestiality, paedophilia, and homosexuality."

At the beginning of the court session, Criminal Prosecutor Minhad Hiji asked the court to refer the defendant to military prosecution to investigate an alleged escape attempt and for insulting his guards and resisting arrest.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* "Pizzicardo" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe Institut, Jabbal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

PLAY

* "Hospital of Happy Dreams" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SLIDE LECTURE

"Shedding Light on the Development of Calligraphy throughout the Ages: Recent Discoveries in the Area of Mafraq" by Dr. Abdul Qader Al-Hosani at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 696682).

Potential candidates bemoan lack of public confidence

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Members of the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre have declared that they are willing to support and vote for their fellow women candidates, regardless of religious or tribal affiliation, but the majority say they do not feel ready to run for Parliament themselves.

Albert educated, cognisant of the importance of women's development for societal progress, and well-informed regarding national and regional issues, a common complaint among these women is a noted lack of confidence and trust from other women in the general public.

"Jordanian women still neither have trust nor confidence in women politicians," says Huda Tarawneh, adding that she would, indeed, decide to run in this autumn's parliamentary elections if she could be assured of both support and votes of the women in her governorate.

Family obligations and financial considerations seem to be further impediments to women's more active and direct participation in decision-making.

"I have to think of my ten children," said Huda, who works as a school teacher.

The conservatism of Jordanian society, especially in rural areas and away from the capital, is a further obstacle for women politicians.

In her hometown of Karak, for example, Huda tried to organise discussion meetings to educate women on the importance of electoral participation, but "their husbands did not allow them to come to the meeting," she affirmed.

Together with two other women selected by the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNFw), Huda recently returned from a study trip on election campaigning in the UK, during which she attended lectures on women in the British political system at the London School of Economics and met British women candidates who participated in recent elections.

The course, sponsored by the British Council and the British embassy in Amman, within the framework of the "Women in Politics Programme," was held at the Hansard Society, an institute dedicated to parliamentary life in Britain and focused on election campaigns.

The trip, from April 19 to May 5, was perfectly timed to allow the three Jordanian women to observe first-hand the British general elections.

"The first thing we can learn from British women is patience," commented Huda, adding that in 1997, 119 women were elected to the House of Commons, while in 1919 that figure was one.

"Not only have we seen volunteers dedicated to supporting women candidates, which does not happen here, but we have also seen women who fight and work hard on their campaigns even though they know they do not have much chance to win [a parliamentary seat]," said Fatimah Rashied, from Irbid.

"We are all afraid," she added sadly.

Iman Bashir, from Amman, described the U.K. visit as responsible for her increased awareness of necessary training before announcing candidacy, and, although she does not intend to run either, she declares her readiness and willingness to "volunteer for any woman who decides to run," regardless of religious or tribal affiliations.

Fatimah, Huda and Iman are critical of Jordanian political parties, and accuse them of "not having done enough for women" and of not having encouraged the presence of women in higher ranks.

They described the National Constitutional Party, recently born from the merger of nine previous parties and led by former Minister Abdul Hadi Majali, as "the government's party, with very strong tribal connotations."

"The party is very new," said Iman, "and the big question is whether the nine previous parties will be able to amalgamate and combine their policies and stands."

As for another main party in the Kingdom, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Fatimah expressed disappointment over a recent controversy between the front and a female member, Nawal Fa'ouri, "who wanted to run for Parliament but was denied her party's support."

To their courageous fellow women who dare run for Parliament, Iman, Fatimah and Huda promise their unconditional support and offer a piece of advice: "Be down to earth and focus on people's needs with clear policies."

Undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau dies

PARIS (AFP) — French undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau died Wednesday at the age of 87, aides said.

"Commander Jacques-Yves Cousteau has rejoined the world of silence," said a statement by his office, adding that a tribute to the explorer, who achieved worldwide fame with his films and documentaries, would be organised in Paris.

Cousteau opened up the mysteries of the deep to untold millions of viewers around the world. His voyages aboard his ship the Calypso were the subject of more than 100 films for television and the big screen as well as best-selling books.

Co-inventor of the Aqua-Lung, he also pioneered the first underwater habitats in the 1960s, allowing "Oceanauts" to exist at depths of hundreds of feet for weeks at a time.

Immensely popular at home and abroad through his television series, he frequently topped polls as the most admired figure in France.

Cousteau was admitted to hospital in February for

a serious bout of flu, but his wife Francine denied a report that he had been in hospital for the last two weeks with an undisclosed illness.

A member of the French Academy, Cousteau was an ardent defender of the environment. He studied ecological and over-population problems in the Council for the Rights of Future Generations, set up by the French presidency in 1993.

He resigned from that body in September, 1995 in protest against President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

From his years observing the world's oceans, aware of their delicate ecological balance, Cousteau, whose aquiline features and athletic figure spurred his popularity, became an outspoken campaigner against pollution.

Born in St. Andre De Cubzac, a little town near Bordeaux, on June 11 1910, he joined the French Navy, serving as a gunnery officer during the war.

From 1936 he began

experimenting with prototypes of breathing apparatus, which led in 1943 to the development of the compressed air Aqua-Lung with engineer Emile Gagnan, an invention that revolutionised undersea exploration.

After the liberation, he co-founded a group for undersea research in the navy, which cleared German mines from Mediterranean ports.

Fearing he might be rotated away from the sea to a desk job, he took leave from the navy in 1950 to create the non-profit making Campagnes Oceano-graphiques Francaises research association and acquired a former minesweeper, the Calypso, which he had refitted as a research vessel.

Calypso made her maiden voyage in her new incarnation to the Red Sea in 1951. In 1953 Cousteau, in collaboration with two colleagues, brought out his first book, *The Silent World*, which became an overnight best seller. At the same time, Cousteau, together with engineer Andre Laban was perfect-



Captain Jacques Yves Cousteau poses with wife Francine in this file photograph. The French oceanographer died in Paris Wednesday. Cousteau, 87, campaigned vigorously against marine pollution. He popularised underwater exploration with the help of a French engineer Emile Gagnan when they built the first skin-diving suit in 1943 (Reuter photo)

ing the first underwater camera equipment for television, which was used for the first time to trace the route of a Greek wine ship which sank off Marseilles in 205 A.D.

In 1956 Cousteau re-

leased the film of his book, which won the top award at the Cannes Film Festival and an Oscar in the United States.

He resigned from the navy in 1957 and became director of the Oceanogra-

phic Museum in Monaco, a post he was to hold until 1988. He also founded the Centre d'Etudes Marines Avancees (CEMA) in Marseilles to research and develop prototypes of underwater equipment.

CEMA designed the diving saucer, a revolutionary two-man observation submarine capable of diving to a depth of 350 metres, which became a major tool for exploring continental shelves.

CEMA also built a deep-sea camera sled named "Troika," which the Calypso towed to New York in 1959, making the first photographic record of the bottom of the Atlantic's Rift Valley.

In 1962 Cousteau and his team began experimenting with underwater habitats, culminating in Conshelf III (1966), which enabled six men to live and work at a depth of 100 metres for three weeks. The experiences were recorded in the film *World Without Sun* and a television special which sparked the first award-winning documentary series *The Undersea World Of Jacques Cousteau*.

From 1967 Calypso undertook extended voyages to the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, the South Atlantic, the Caribbean, Pacific, and Alaska, gathering material for new prog-

rammes. Among the most highly praised were the four devoted to the expedition Cousteau led to the Antarctic in 1972. *Beneath The Frozen World*, which showed for the first time the sculptural beauty of ice formations under the sea.

"Television is for me the greatest reward there is," Cousteau once said. "With television, you know that on one evening 35 to 40 million people are going to see dolphins."

Back in the 1960s, Cousteau began voicing concern over pollution. "The sea is the universal sewer. All pollutants on land eventually reach the sea," he said. "We risk poisoning the sea forever just when we are learning her science, art and philosophy and how to live in her embrace."

He set up the Cousteau Society Conservationist Group in the United States to convey his message. In 1977 he shared the International Environmental Prize awarded by the United Nations.

Cambodian premier cool on U.S. efforts to try Pol Pot

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's first prime minister Wednesday appeared to reject U.S. efforts to bring Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot before an international tribunal, saying the country should not get involved in Cambodia's affairs.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said the interests of Cambodia were paramount when it came to deciding what should happen to the guerrilla strongman.

"I am very respectful to China and very respectful to the United States but please don't get involved in our internal affairs," the prince told reporters.

"Everything must be done in conformity with the interests of Cambodia and the people of Cambodia," Prince Ranariddh said. He did not elaborate.

The United States was studying ways of bringing Mr. Pol Pot to trial on genocide charges, assuming he can be taken into custody. State Department officials said Tuesday.

China hinted Tuesday it

was opposed to the idea. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Pol Pot's fate was an internal affair.

"It should be decided by Cambodians themselves without foreign interference," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai told reporters in Beijing.

Political analysts said China might be cool to an airing of information about its own dealings with Mr. Pol Pot.

Beijing was a key supporter of the Khmer Rouge 1975-79 "killing fields" regime.

The Pol Pot government was overthrown in early 1979 by a Vietnamese invasion.

China continued to support the Khmer Rouge and two smaller pro-Communist guerrilla armies, including royalist forces, who together formed a "coalition government" and battled the Vietnamese army of occupation in Phnom Penh.

The war was officially ended with a 1991 treaty.

but the Khmer Rouge subsequently reneged on the peace process.

Prince Ranariddh said negotiations on the fate of Mr. Pol Pot were continuing Wednesday with the Khmer Rouge splinter faction which turned against their ageing leader and detained him last week.

Prince Ranariddh said Wednesday a negotiator was at the Anlong Veng stronghold in northern Cambodia where Mr. Pol Pot was being detained but said there was no timeframe for his "hand-over" to the government.

Prince Ranariddh said the previous day that the Khmer Rouge splinter faction holding Mr. Pol Pot had to hand him over within days if it wanted to strike an amnesty deal with the government.

Last Saturday the prince and his Second Prime Minister Hun Sen announced that Mr. Pol Pot, mastermind of the "killing fields" regime, had been captured by his former comrades.

The two premiers said he

should be brought before an international tribunal and said they had written a letter to the secretary general of the United Nations seeking the world body's help in bringing to justice those responsible for deaths during the period.

More than one million Cambodians are estimated to have died from starvation, hard labour, torture or executions during Mr. Pol Pot's rule.

In their letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, the two premiers said they were aware of the U.N.'s response to genocide and crimes against humanity in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia — a reference to tribunals set up by the U.N. Security Council — and asked for similar help.

"We believe that crimes of this magnitude are of concern to all persons in the world, as they greatly diminish respect for the most basic human right, the right to life," the two premiers said in their letter.

Whitewater investigator probing Clinton's alleged trysts — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Whitewater investigator Kenneth Starr has been questioning former Arkansas state troopers and a dozen women about President Bill Clinton's alleged extramarital affairs, a newspaper said Wednesday.

It is the first time in Mr. Starr's three-year probe into the failed Arkansas real estate venture which has been dogging the Clintons that Mr. Starr has shifted his questioning to such personal areas, sources close to the probe told the Washington Post.

The alleged affairs being looked into are said to have taken place when Mr. Clinton was Arkansas governor in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Mr. Starr's investigators have been questioning two Arkansas state troopers who were assigned to Mr. Clinton during his tenure as governor and 12 to 15 women, including Paula Corbin Jones, who is suing Mr. Clinton for alleged sexual harassment in 1991.

Trooper Roger Perry, who said the new line of questioning began this spring, questioned the investigators' motives in an interview with the Daily.

"In the past, I thought they were trying to get to the bottom of Whitewater," Mr. Perry said. "This last time, I was left with the impression that they wanted to show he was a womaniser ... all they wanted to talk about was women."

He said he told investigators that he and other troopers either drove Mr. Clinton or provided vehicles to transport him to clandestine meetings with "seven or eight" of the women on the prosecutors' list.

Mr. Clinton's wife, Hillary, was either out of town (Little Rock) or asleep during the rendezvous, the trooper said.

The other officer, Ronald Anderson, told the Daily that during his interrogations he refused to answer questions about Mr. Clinton's personal relationships. "I said, 'if he's done something illegal, I will tell you. But I'm not going to answer a question about women that he knew because I just don't feel like it's anybody's business.'"

Mr. Starr's office said investigators were merely trying to find people Mr. Clinton was close to during the 1980s and early 1990s to ask them what Mr. Clinton might have told them about the Whitewater investment.

House gives U.S. only one more year in Bosnia

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives Tuesday voted to cut off funds for U.S. military operations in Bosnia next June despite warnings by the Pentagon that a mandatory date to withdraw from the region would place U.S. troops in jeopardy.

The House voted 278-148 to cut off funding for the U.S. mission on June 30, 1998 after rejecting by a 231-196 vote an alternative to speed withdrawal of U.S. ground troops by Dec. 31, 1997. The cutoff date was added to a bill that authorises spending of \$268.2 billion for all U.S. military programmes in 1998 which the House is expected to pass Wednesday.

President Bill Clinton has told Congress that U.S. participation in the U.N. peacekeeping mission must end by mid-June next year, but lawmakers said they wanted to force him to request an extension from Congress if he decided the troops should remain longer.

National Security Committee Chairman Floyd Spence, Republican of South Carolina, argued the administration was already guilty of "broken promises" on the Bosnia mission with earlier extensions of U.S. involvement.

Office of Management and Budget Director Franklin Raines said administration officials would recommend the president veto the 1998 Defence Authorisation Bill if the Bosnia withdrawal amendment were included in the final version.

"Such an amendment could jeopardise the safety of our troops and damage our national security interests," Mr. Raines wrote in a letter that also represented U.S. military officials.

"It would seriously undercut the U.S. commitment to help implement the Dayton Peace Accord and successfully complete the NATO-led mission in Bosnia, resulting in a serious loss in U.S. credibility with the Bosnian parties, with our allies, and with other countries participating in the stabilisation force operation," he said.

Democrat Lee Hamilton of Ohio argued that the Bosnia amendment undermined U.S. efforts. "It sends the opponents of peace the message they want to hear, 'just wait and U.S. troops will go.'"

He also argued that Congress was in danger of weakening U.S. leadership in NATO. "No one in this chamber can predict today what the circumstances in Bosnia will be on a date in the future. It is folly to require American forces to be out of there on a certain date," Mr. Hamilton, senior Democrat on the International Relations Committee, said during the debate.

Injury toll rises to 94 in Austrian rail crash

VIENNA (R) — Over 90 people were injured, many of them children, when two trains collided in the region of Arbing in Upper Austria, state television reported Wednesday.

The Red Cross said as many as 94 people were hurt in Tuesday's crash, 30 seriously. Many of the casualties were children returning from school outings.

Some of the injured were flown to hospital by helicopter, the television said.

The accident happened when one of the train drivers failed to heed a stop signal when leaving Arbing Railway Station, it added.

Chicago heat wave partly blamed for four deaths

CHICAGO (R) — The first

heat wave in the Midwest this summer was partly blamed Tuesday for four deaths in Chicago and the authorities urged people to take special precautions in the sweltering weather.

A surge in demand for air conditioning strained electricity supplies and utility companies appealed to users to conserve as much energy as possible.

The decomposing body of a 34-year-old man who died from a heart attack was discovered in a Chicago residential hotel, adding to the three deaths over the weekend from heart failure where heat stress was listed as a secondary cause.

Since a record-breaking July 1995 heat wave was blamed for contributing to as many as 700 deaths in Chicago, officials have been sensitive to the threat posed by hot weather.

Temperatures surpassed 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius) for the fifth consecutive day in the city and high humidity made for oppressive conditions. The heat followed an abnormally cold spring that gave residents little time to

adjust. The city issued an ozone watch, asking drivers to take public transportation and requesting that residents check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours.

Northern Illinois' electric utility, Commonwealth Edison, a unit of UNICOM Corp. asked users to wait until evening to operate dishwashers and washing machines, and to switch off unneeded lights.

The company predicted peak usage Tuesday would overtake Monday's 17,700 megawatts, and it had taken the precaution of purchasing 3,000 megawatts of surplus power from East Coast utilities. The all-time high usage for the Chicago-based utility was 19,212 megawatts during the summer of 1995.

Thunderstorms were expected to help break the heat spell later this week across the Midwest. Milwaukee residents hoped the storms would skip past southeast Wisconsin, after a weekend in which up to 25 centimetres of rain flooded 11,000 homes and caused an estimated \$20 million in damages.

Queen Elizabeth marks Newfoundland anniversary

BONAVISTA (R) — Queen Elizabeth has joined thousands of Newfoundlanders to mark the 500th anniversary of explorer John Cabot's arrival at the site of this fishing port on North America's eastern edge.

Accompanied by her husband Prince Philip, Irish Prime Minister John Bruton and other dignitaries, the British queen was at quayside to meet "The Matthew" — a 50-tonne wooden replica of the vessel that Cabot sailed to the "New Founde Landes" in 1497.

The reproduction of Cabot's 75-foot (23-metre) caravel, was built in England and sailed from Bristol across the Atlantic to Bonavista Harbour, where many historians believe Cabot landed.

"So Newfoundland became the link between the old and the new worlds," Queen Elizabeth said in a brief speech at the quayside, where the Cabot landfall was reenacted. "It represents the geographical and intellectual beginning of modern North America."

The queen, who is Canada's head of state, arrived in Newfoundland Monday for a 10-day tour of Canada, her 16th since becoming monarch in 1952.

Newfoundland, which has been hit hard by the collapse of its fishing industry after the depletion of what was once the richest cod fishing ground in the world, received 20 million Canadian dollars (\$14.4 million) in government funding for a summer-long series of commemorations.

Newfoundlanders were in a party mood.

"This town really fell apart after the fishing stopped. A lot of people will go on welfare and some will lose their homes, but this (celebration) with the queen coming is bringing us together," said Angie Cuff, 17, who grew up in Bonavista.

Australian opposition calls for vote on republic

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's leftist opposition parties vowed Wednesday to push for an early popular vote on this former British colony becoming a republic, as political brawling threatened to sink an official debate on the issue.

The Labour opposition and the Australian Democrats, a key bloc in the upper house of parliament, said they would propose a referendum within two years on whether or not Queen Elizabeth should be ditched as head of state.

Conservative Prime Minister John Howard has threatened to cancel a 152-member Republic Convention over Labour and Democrat insistence on a compulsory vote for the 76 elected delegates, instead of the voluntary postal ballot suggested by government.

The remaining 76 places

in the convention originally planned for late this year are reserved for government appointees.

Opposition leader Kim Beazley said voters should be able to decide on a republic with minimal political interference.

"Our concern is that the Australian people get a chance to express their views," he told reporters.

"It's time the politicians took one step aside from this, asked people directly what it is that they ... wanted."

Although Australia is independent, its constitution was passed as an act of the British parliament and its head of state is the ruling British monarch, not an Australian.

Mr. Howard's Liberal-National Coalition committed itself to a convention on the republic while cam-

paigning against pro-Republican Labour Prime Minister Paul Keating last year.

But parliament's upper house, the Senate, amended the coalition legislation to insist on a compulsory vote with electors attending official polling stations, as is the case for all government elections in Australia.

The coalition, which can still overturn the Senate amendment in the lower house, said it would abandon the convention rather than give in.

The government has said abandoning or delaying the convention would necessarily not rule out a popular vote on the issue in time for the 2001 centenary of nationhood.

It has also threatened an early election over the issue — which it can do if the Senate again rejects or

changes its plan — although most analysts believe this unlikely.

Labour and the Democrats said they would introduce legislation in both houses calling for a national popular vote on a republic at the next election or within two years.

The next election is due by May 1999, but is expected to be held late in 1998 under loose electoral timing rules.

The government's overwhelming majority in parliament's lower house, the House of Representatives, means the Labour-Democrat push cannot win the necessary approval of both houses.

But success in the Senate, where leftists Greens and a sympathetic independent hold the balance of power, would provide strong moral support for their campaign.

Canberra diplomats told to hit Hanson — official

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's foreign service has been ordered to counter race row politician Pauline Hanson at every chance despite Canberra's low-key public stand against the controversial MP, an official said Wednesday.

The official, at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said the government was secretly translating speeches and other information discrediting Mrs. Hanson to be given to foreign governments and media, as well as rebutting her policies.

"We've been told to counter Hanson," said the official, who declined to be named.

Prime Minister John Howard, attacked for failing to

act swiftly and firmly enough against Mrs. Hanson when she sparked a divisive race row last year, this week abandoned a plan to denounce her in a key speech during an official visit to London.

Defending his stand, Mr. Howard warned that publicly taking on Mrs. Hanson would only boost her standing and credibility.

"I mean, every time you talk about it, it gets another run and everybody says 'isn't this ridiculous and outrageous and terrible,'" he told reporters in London this week.

"So you're really caught between the devil and the deep blue sea."

But the foreign service has been quietly told to

counter Mrs. Hanson and spread information discrediting her.

"We've had an order from senior levels to run a campaign that counters what Hanson is saying," the official said.

As part of this strategy, a speech by a senior government member linking Mrs. Hanson to right-wing extremists was translated into Mandarin and given to Chinese authorities.

Government leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister Tim Fischer, have warned Mrs. Hanson was undermining Australia's prosperity by jeopardising trade links with the booming Asia-Pacific region.

Mrs. Hanson says Australia

is in danger of being swamped by Asian immigrants, wants all immigration halted, and objects to foreign investment.

After being dumped by Mr. Howard's Liberal Party for comments seen as racist during the 1996 election, the small-town fish and chip shop owner was elected to parliament as an independent but has now formed her own far-right party, One Nation.

Leading opinion polls now show One Nation has about 10 per cent support, enough to oust the Australian Democrats as the third force in domestic politics if that is maintained to the next election, due by mid-1999.

MFN, collapsing boycott boosts H. Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's government-in-waiting was handed a twin victory Wednesday after the United States extended trading privileges to China and a British attempt to organise a boycott of its swearing-in ceremony crumbled.

News that the U.S. House of Representatives had voted to renew Beijing's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status for another year was a major boost to Hong Kong, which lives off trade with the mainland.

The new government of Hong Kong, which Britain hands to China at midnight on June 30, will be freed from fears of being caught in the middle of a trade war between the world's most populous and most powerful nations.

Separately, Washington announced that its consul general in Hong Kong would attend the investiture of the Beijing-picked legislature that will push aside a democratically-elected body. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright reaffirmed she would still shun the event, but Britain's bid to organise an international boycott lay in tatters.

A British Foreign Office spokesman in Hong Kong indicated that London, too, may relent and send an official — although not visiting Prime Minister Tony Blair or Foreign Secretary Robin Cook.

U.S. President Bill Clinton hailed the House vote, which rejected by 259 to 173 a measure that would have overruled his decision to extend MFN to China.

"The right way to encourage further progress in China is not to cut China off but to draw China in," he said.

Samuel Berger, the White House national security adviser, said the vote signalled that "we can't ignore a quarter of the world's people." There was jubilation in Hong Kong, where the stock market has been booming as Britain retreats from its last major colonial outpost after a rule lasting more than 150 years.

"We are very pleased with the result," the government said in a statement. "The renewal of China's MFN status always matters greatly to Hong Kong, but it has never mattered more than this year when Hong Kong will embark on a new chapter in its history."

Renewal "goes a long way to ensure the continued economic vibrancy of Hong Kong during the bandover period," it added.

Hong Kong, the world's seventh largest trading economy, stood to lose up to \$30 billion a year in trade and related revenues. "It's great news, the MFN season is always unpredictable," said Mitch Presnick, a partner with Warren Williams International Public Affairs Consultant.

MFN critics wanted to punish China over its human rights record, trade imbalance with the United States and tensions with Taiwan.

An official in Washington explained the decision to send Consul General Richard Boucher to the swearing-in ceremony by saying "he has to work, for better or worse, with the new legislature."

But Mrs. Albright warned Communist China that its handling of vibrantly capitalist Hong Kong under a "one country, two systems" formula would act as a barometer for Sino-U.S. ties.

Foreign Office spokesman Bill Dickson indicated that Britain might back down and send an official. "We're still considering. There's absolutely no prospect of a minister attending, we've made that perfectly clear. But at this stage we're still considering."



Melissa Drexler leaves the courthouse with her attorney Steven Secare after her arraignment hearing at the Monmouth County Courthouse in Freehold Tuesday. Ms. Drexler was charged with the murder of her newborn son which she secretly delivered in a bathroom stall at her school the night of her prom. She surrendered herself to the Monmouth County prosecutor's office Tuesday (Reuter photo)

U.S. teen accused of murdering newborn

FREEHOLD (R) — A U.S. teenager who delivered her baby in a bathroom during her senior prom was charged with murder after an autopsy indicated the infant was asphyxiated, authorities said.

Melissa Drexler, 18, went to her senior prom on June 6, where she gave birth to a boy in a bathroom of a banquet hall in Aberdeen Township, New Jersey, authorities said. She had kept her pregnancy secret.

The girl went back to the dance, and a cleaning woman found the baby's body in a garbage bag.

"The child was alive when he was born," said John Kaye, Monmouth County prosecutor.

A report by the local medical examiner, released

Tuesday, indicated the baby died from asphyxiation, and the death was ruled a homicide, Mr. Kaye said.

The baby boy was full term and local hospital officials determined it had no abnormalities, he said.

The baby could have been strangled or suffocated by the plastic bag he was put inside, Mr. Kaye said.

"We are certain the baby was alive after it was born," he said. "When it ceased to be alive, we cannot say."

"It fits the definition of 'knowing murder'," the prosecutor said.

The teen, a vocational high school student who lives in Forked River, New Jersey, surrendered to authorities Tuesday morning, he said. She was charged with murder and endanger-

ing a child, he said.

If convicted, she faces a possible life prison sentence. Mr. Kaye said it was unlikely prosecutors would seek the death penalty.

Ms. Drexler arrived at her senior prom wearing a loose-fitting black dress and gave birth in a locked bathroom stall, but told friends nothing was wrong, authorities said.

She returned to the prom, where she requested the disc jockey play a song by the heavy metal rock band Metallica called "Nothing Else Matters."

Maintenance workers noticed the blood in the tiled bathroom and then found the body in the trash. Confronted after the discovery of the blood, the teen admitted giving birth, authorities said.

Taleban jet bombs Rabbani's HQ in northern Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — A lone Taleban jet Wednesday bombed Taloqan, the headquarters of former President Burhanuddin Rabbani in northern Afghanistan, northern sources said.

The jet, believed to be a Russian-made Sukhoi Su-22, reportedly dropped at least four bombs on the central parade ground of the Takhar provincial capital, 410 kilometres north of Kabul.

No casualties or damage was reported in the attack, which may have targeted the military helicopters Mr. Rabbani's top Commander Ahmad Shah Masood keeps parked there.

Taloqan is a picturesque but rural town that exists on a thriving trade in salt, wheat, rice and livestock. On weekly market days the central parade ground is packed with traders and local farmers.

Mr. Rabbani and his government retreated to Taloqan in September 1996 after being ousted from Kabul by the Islamic militants, who currently control 22 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces.

To the west of Takhar, control of neighbouring Kunduz province was seized by local pro-Taleban commanders last week, backed by an expeditionary

force of Muslim militants based in Baghlan to the south.

Reports of Taleban reinforcements being airlifted into Kunduz airport have not yet been independently confirmed.

Commander Masood's official spokesman has told journalists that a Taleban presence would "not be tolerated" in Kunduz or Baghlan province.

A Taleban ministerial spokesman in Kabul Tuesday rejected power-sharing with Afghan opposition factions.

The opposing attitudes leave little room for current efforts by the United Nations and neighbouring countries to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table.

The factional Afghan conflict is now in its 18th year. Britain Wednesday accused the Taleban of profiting from the heroin trade and called on the Islamic militia to declare their determination to end drugs production in their country.

"Drugs money replenishes the Taleban war chest," wrote Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett in an article published in the Guardian newspaper.

The heroin that reaches the United Kingdom comes

largely from opium grown in the southern regions of Afghanistan, which the Taleban control," he said.

"The Taleban say poor farmers rely on poppy production for a secure income, but — partly because opium poppy is being grown — Afghanistan requires food aid," wrote Mr. Fatchett.

"The Taleban say they are inspired by Islam. It is time for them to prove this. It is impossible for the outsider to see how they can reconcile their religious principles with drug-trafficking."

The minister added that the militia's readiness to tackle the drugs trade would be "a crucial factor in the international community's assessment of them as a potential government with which it can have dealings."

And he said that in the long-term, aid to the country would depend on Afghan cooperation in efforts to curb drugs production and trafficking.

Meanwhile, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Tuesday up to 4,000 refugees, many of them wounded, crossed into Turkmenistan overnight after fleeing fighting in Afghanistan.

A UNHCR employee in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabad said the civilians

were "mostly women, elderly and children" and that four women who had been wounded had received medical care from Turkmen Border Guards.

"The Taleban have captured several villages close to the Murghab River in Afghanistan," the UNHCR official said, adding that the Maruchak village on the frontier was now in the Islamic militia's possession.

Russian news agency Interfax said Turkmenistan's security forces were preparing to return the refugees across the border.

Meanwhile, two deputy foreign ministers from Iran were separately travelling around the region, holding meetings ahead of a possible U.N. conference on the Afghanistan crisis.

The foreign ministries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan confirmed that the Iranian deputy foreign ministers, Abbas Maliki and Allahshah Burundzhi, were making contact with their governments, and that of Turkmenistan, without giving further information.

Last week, Gulzar Ayub Khan, the foreign minister of Pakistan, which is sympathetic to the Taleban and recognises it as Afghanistan's official government, made a similar tour.

Chilean Air Force rescues 250 people from Andes

SANTIAGO (R) — Chilean Air Force helicopters Tuesday rescued more than 250 people who were trapped by blizzards for six days at a border crossing high in the Andes on the frontier with Argentina, said military officials.

Most of the people were stranded at the remote Los Libertadores border station on the Chilean-Argentine border after heavy snow Thursday forced them to abandon the cars, buses and trucks in which they were travelling.

"The majority of people were in quite good state, although two suffered health problems during the rescue," said air force spokesman Jose Cifuentes.

A policeman had to be treated for hypothermia and an older woman who had recently undergone heart surgery suffered from high blood pressure, he said.

Four helicopters took part in the rescue mission which took advantage of the first long break in the weather after nearly a week of violent storms and high winds.

Police airlifted around 30 people, mainly women and children, to safety Sunday but the flights had to be suspended after the weather closed in.

Most of the people were heading through the pass when the blizzard hit, forcing them to stop at the customs building. Others were trapped in a refuge near the Cristo Redentor Tunnel or at a ski resort a few miles down the road.

The break in the torrential rains allowed rivers to subside and reduced the risk of further flooding which forced 63,000 people to flee their homes, said the National Emergency Office (ONEMI).

"Rivers, canals and dams have shown water levels tending towards normal in the last few hours which has cut considerably the risk of more floods," said ONEMI in a statement.

The government declared a state of catastrophe Monday in Santiago and seven central regions to release emergency funds to deal with the crisis.

Sinn Fein wants to clarify Northern Ireland arms plan

BELFAST (R) — Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, Wednesday cautiously welcomed British moves to achieve a new Northern Ireland peace but signalled that it would need talks with London to clarify them.

In Lurgan town in County Armagh, security sources said that bomb disposal offices were preparing to examine a suspicious object after an overnight blast in a car park while a British Security Forces patrol was in the area. No-one was hurt.

A week ago the Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot dead two police patrolmen in the town throwing the province's peace hopes into disarray and provoking a decision by Britain to cut off low-level contacts with Sinn Fein.

Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein chairman, said hours ahead of a keynote announcement by British Prime Minister Tony Blair that if a long-running wrangle over disarmament were resolved, it would boost prospects for an Irish Republican Army ceasefire.

Mr. Blair is scheduled to make a parliamentary statement about how the thorny issue of "arms decommissioning" would be tackled in the event of a long-sought cessation of violence by the IRA which is waging a war against British rule in Northern Ireland.

Mr. McLaughlin, in a telephone interview with Reuters, said Sinn Fein had not seen Mr. Blair's statement or an Anglo-Irish strategy for disarmament, and that its only knowledge was based on briefings, whose source he did not identify.

He said that Britain seemed "to have largely accepted the logic of the position that Sinn Fein have been arguing for some considerable time, that disarmament discussions should properly and legitimately take place along-

side all other issues — that is within a negotiating process."

Asked about the possibility of Sinn Fein approaching the IRA for a new ceasefire, Mr. McLaughlin replied: "We had four main areas of concern. If Tony Blair addresses them all this afternoon, we will have taken a giant step in that direction."

Sinn Fein is demanding a seat in all-party talks, a fixed time frame for the discussions, release of "political prisoners" and guarantees that talks will not be "a decommissioning" conference.

Mr. McLaughlin said Sinn Fein would consider Mr. Blair's statement carefully but he strongly hinted that a further meeting would be needed with British officials.

"We note with approval that Tony Blair took the trouble yesterday to explain his thinking to David Trimble and John Hume and they represent major constituencies."

"Sinn Fein has a constituency that is absolutely crucial on this whole issue...If we are to give leadership, we are entitled to know what the British prime minister's thinking is. It is a matter for the British to decide how we are going to get this elucidation."

Mr. Blair Tuesday held meetings at his London official residence with Mr. Trimble, head of the Ulster Unionist Party which speaks for most of the province's pro-British majority, and Mr. Hume, leader of the Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Mr. Trimble gave hopes of a breakthrough a spurt when he said that he would accept the idea of "parallel decommissioning" by the IRA alongside round-table negotiations. Previously he had insisted on guns being surrendered before Sinn Fein could get a seat.

Sri Lankan rebels counterattack

COLOMBO (AFP) — At least 167 government soldiers and rebels have been killed and over 100 wounded as Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked government forces trying to carve a route into northern Sri Lanka, officials said Wednesday.

Hundreds of gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stormed army bunker lines at Periyamadu as troops closed in on a rebel-held town nearby overnight

Tuesday, official sources said.

"There has been very heavy close-quarter fighting," a military official said.

"The initial estimate is that about 30 soldiers were killed and another 100 were wounded. The situation is now under control."

Ground commanders estimated that about 100 rebels were killed in the counter-offensive mounted by the army, officials said.

Another 30 rebels and

seven government soldiers were killed in a separate battle in the same area Tuesday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

An army colonel was among those killed by the Tigers, the sources said, the highest ranking officer killed since the security forces launched their "Sure Of Victory" offensive on May 13 to capture a key highway through rebel-held territory.

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Halt inhuman practice

THERE SEEMS to be no limit to how some people can go in condoning and perpetrating inhuman practices. This week, the Egyptian administrative court overturned a one-year-old ban on circumcision and made of body mutilation a legal exercise.

In its verdict, the Egyptian court said the health minister, Ismail Sallam, had "abused power" when he banned, and consequently criminalised, the practice last year.

It is very surprising to see that a court of law, which should be a symbol of justice, can give legal foundation for such cruel practice that at times in the past had led to not only mutilation but also death of young girls.

What is more painful is that Islamists in Egypt, who concurred that the excision of all or part of the clitoris and sometimes the labia is legal and allowable even though "Islam did not advocate it," hailed the court ruling as a victory for Islam.

But how can circumcision be a victory for Islam and Muslims when the first task Prophet Mohammad undertook was the elimination of all malpractices against women, on top of which was the tradition of burying female babies alive during the Jahliyya days. And how can mutilation be a victory for Muslims when it is in stark contradiction with all human rights and religious principles?

Circumcision cannot be Islamic since it is also applied on Christian girls in Egypt. In addition, non-African Muslims do not even know what the practice means. It is not the sole responsibility of human rights organisations and women activists to defend and fight inhuman practices. It is the major responsibility of Muslims worldwide to stand together against such practices as female circumcision and killings of honour which is tantamount to legalising killing of women in the name of religion, tradition and nomadic ethics.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour has criticised Jordan Television for what he calls poor coverage of the events in Lebanon, especially the Israeli daily air raids on the country's southern regions. Various world television networks continually provide footage of the raids, showing the viewers various scenes of destruction and showing the misery which Israel causes to Arab people through its continued aggression, said Yousef Abu Loz. But Jordan Television often opts for covering a traffic accident in Italy or the deliberations of the Chinese parliament rather than presenting to the Jordanian people reports in which they take interest and developments in a neighbouring Arab state. It goes without saying that Jordan's local events are not covered by other nations' television stations, which naturally focus attention on their own countries' developments at the domestic and international fronts, according to the writer. He said that the Jordanians are keen on following up on the raids and other serious developments in the Arab region, adding that Jordan Television, which receives detailed reports about the raids, as well as other important events, ought to cater to the desires of its viewers and respond to their demands.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Wednesday supported a call by the Islamic movement to allow international observers to monitor the coming general elections. Fahed Fanek said that the interior minister's claim that the presence of such observers would mean interference in the country's internal affairs is illogical because these observers normally enjoy the high reputation of being neutral and are well prepared to monitor elections due to their vast experience and their integrity and honesty. Indeed, the presence of such observers would be in the interest of the government itself, as well as that of the opposition parties, because these parties would not dare say later that irregularities had occurred in the voting procedure and the observers who are monitoring the situation will be in a position to give a clean bill, attesting to fair and free elections, said the writer. He noted that most of the elections that took place in developing countries, including Jordan, over the past 50 years came under suspicion in varying degrees. The general elections in November will be, anyway, under the close watch of the local and international media which sometimes does not reflect the actual situation, said the writer, but international and neutral observers have a great credibility and are trusted to give the world a factual report on the elections and their results.

View from Academia

Learning, life and the surroundings

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

WE HAVE, for some time now, been talking a lot about tying education to daily life, emphasising that schools and universities should — if not first and foremost, at least in part — prepare our students for their future life. If education does not train us to deal with the small details and needs of daily life effectively, what is its use?

We have also been talking a lot about tying education to the environment around us. Interest in the environment has been highly prioritised in our public discourse, as have been official schemes and plans.

But unless we implement what we talk about, and unless our slogans and ideals are translated into daily realities, our unacceptable conditions remain as they have been and as they now are.

The issue I wish to raise is tied directly to education and daily life and with education and the environment.

It is a fact, an unflattering one no doubt, that we in this part of the world do not know how to deal with the small details and needs of daily life and how to deal with our immediate surroundings and environment.

When our watch stops, we (by "we" I mean the majority) do not know how to open its cover and replace the dead battery. If an electric outlet goes dead, we do not know how to unscrew it and put the wires back in place. When our car stops because the fan belt breaks, we do not know how to install the new one (let alone make do of the old); some do not know how to change a flat tyre. When the door handle gets stuck, we hire a carpenter to replace it. When the faucet drips, we call the plumber. We do not take our temperature when sick, and we cannot measure our blood pressure.

By contrast, we hear of individuals in other societies who, themselves, remodel their homes, change the car oil, make their own tables and chairs, fix their own radios, paint their own houses, build their own fences, etc.

Why is the situation in our part of the world the way it is?

There are many reasons. One is social. Our present culture spoils us a great deal through making us reliant on others for most of the things we do. Until now, most young men and women (especially the young men) rely on their mothers not only when it comes to cooking meals but also when it comes to making sandwiches or boiling eggs.

The main reason, however, is educational. Much of what we have been learning (the picture is more or less the same today) is theoretical. When we were taught about electricity, we read about it in books. When we were taught about the desert, we read about it in books.

It is funny that I, for one, have lived most of my life in this part of the world (which is supposed to be desert for the most part of it) and the image of the desert in my mind has been formed largely through films like "Lawrence of Arabia." For a long time, I found it difficult to believe, for example, that the areas to the east of Zarqa are desert. Desert for me was sand.

There is a great deal of "technical," "vocational" or "practical" ignorance in our part of the world because our school and university syllabi have for a long time been without any emphasis on technical, vocational and practical education.

But the point about the desert illustrates clearly the

remoteness of our school and university syllabi from our daily lives and our surroundings. Was it that difficult and costly for the school to have taken us on a trip to the desert (a 20-30 minute ride) and show us what the desert actually is like?

We do not know our environment; we do not know our surroundings.

Most of us cannot name not the tools that we use and the trees or plants amongst which we live. Most of us cannot name the animals (the birds, the reptiles, the mammals). We cannot name the various types of rocks, stones or soil.

I went swimming once with some friends in a small lake in upstate New York. I almost died out of fear and fatigue rushing to the shore upon seeing a snake in the water. When my friends asked why I did what I did and I said it was because of the snake, they laughed: "Who told we have dangerous water snakes upstate New York? These snakes are harmless." I felt foolish.

How many of us know the types of snake we have in our part of the world, and how many know the harmful from the harmless?

We need an education which helps us live our daily lives and execute the various chores ably, and we need an education which acquaints us better with our environment and surroundings. Teach me about the South Pole, but acquaint me also with southern Jordan; teach me about the North Pole, but acquaint me with the beautiful plants, flowers and trees of northern Jordan.

Globalism is important, but I need to know my vicinity first.

'Governments should compete with Islamic parties rather than ban them'

Following is an editorial that has appeared in the International Herald Tribune:

THE RESIGNATION of Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan stems from a conflict, now bedeviling much of the Muslim World, over how much freedom to grant Islamic expression and Islamic political parties. In Turkey, the secular military pressured Mr. Erbakan, who heads an Islamist party, to crack down on displays of Islam, and has now forced his resignation.

Many other nations, including Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, ban some Islamic parties outright. Muslim nations are right to be wary of groups that might impose dictatorships if they reached power. But such bans can end up creating repressive police states in the name of preventing them. They can also help radicalise Islamic movements that might otherwise play by democratic rules.

Governments can blame themselves for the rise of Islamic parties. In societies intolerant of dissent, the mosque is often the only place where people can speak freely and organise. In Turkey, Egypt and other

nations, Islamic movements appeal to non-fundamentalists disgusted with the corruption and inefficiency of traditional parties. Governments often use bans to eliminate the opposition.

"Governments can blame themselves for the rise of Islamic parties. In societies intolerant of dissent, the mosque is often the only place where people can speak freely and organise. In Turkey, Egypt and other nations, Islamic movements appeal to non-fundamentalists disgusted with the corruption and inefficiency of traditional parties. Governments often use bans to eliminate the opposition."

There is reason to ban movements that use terrorism or seek to seize power so as to impose dictatorship. But many do not. The Islamic Action Front in Jordan, for example, competes in elections. Turkey's Islamic party played by democratic rules. It won more than 21 per cent of the vote and governed in coalition with a secular party.

There was little danger that Mr. Erbakan would

make Turkey an Islamic nation, given formidable opposition to that course in Turkish society. Yet the military, which has staged three coups since 1960, pressed Mr. Erbakan to shut down

ment has arrested thousands of members and sympathisers of Nahdha, an Islamic party that behaved democratically.

The risk of banning moderate Islamic movements and expression is that such steps can end up radicalising them. Like most political groups, Islamic organisations do not disappear when they are banned. They simply turn to methods other than politics. The cruelest example is Algeria, where the government cancelled elections in 1992 rather than allow victory by an alliance of moderate and fundamentalist Islamic groups. The alliance was then outlawed and its leaders jailed. Its radicals turned to terrorism, and the government responded in kind. The ensuing bloodbath has killed 60,000 people.

No government should sit back while terror groups or those promising dictatorship seek to take power. It is not always evident when these dangers exist. It is clear, however, that governments in the Middle East and North Africa have often used this excuse to club the opposition. They should instead compete with Islamic parties by making their own administrations more competent and honest.

Waiting for the crisis that might topple Netanyahu is not realistic

By Amjad Tadros

LAST WEEK'S cabinet crisis in Israel, triggered by the resignation of Finance Minister Dan Meridor, once again illustrated the instability of the current government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Sadly, the episode rejuvenates the false hopes of many well-intentioned Jordanians that Netanyahu's right-wing government is on its way out and that a more pro-peace government will be elected by the Israeli people. But that is little more than wishful thinking. Attitudes should not be formulated on the basis of these unrealistic assumptions.

From the outset, it was evident that Mr. Netanyahu would establish a presidential style of government, whereby he and a selected group of advisers assumed control of government affairs and sidelined fellow ministers and party members. As it turned out, the prime minister's strategy is characterised by a bizarre combination of crisis management and media relations rather than well thought-out plans and reasonable initiatives. An Israeli political commentator rightly described Mr. Netanyahu's modus operandi by saying: "A tactic for this government is getting through the morning papers and strategy is to get through the weekend papers."

Then there is the government coalition. It is a collection of hardliners, opportunists and religious extremists, united only by their hunger for power. To be certain, not a single party would be willing to sacrifice its own political position and numerical strength to bring down the government.

Minister of Trade and Industry Nathan Sharansky, who leads the Russian immigrant party, Israel B'Aliyah, is a classic example. He keeps threatening that he has "one foot outside the cabinet." Yet he stayed in the government after pledging

to leave if even "ten per cent" of the allegations made in the Bar-On affair were true. The attorney general repaid in April provided Sharansky with more than his prerequisite ten per cent even though the prime minister and two of his close political associates were not indicted. The whole episode certainly proved that Sharansky's words were merely empty threats.

A national unity government has little chance of materialising, especially since former General Ehud Barak secured the Labour Party leadership. Enjoying ever-increasing popularity in Israeli opinion polls, he has made it quite clear that he does not plan to risk his political future for serving in a government that he regards as a sinking ship. He would rather play the role of opposition leader, spend his time broadening support for the Labour Party amongst Russian immigrants and Jews of North African origin and sweep the polls in three years' time.

Still Jordan cannot afford to wait until the next election. The peace process has stalled Israel's already advanced economy, increasing the gap between itself and its Arab neighbours. Since Oslo, Israel's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by over one-third, the number of nations that maintained diplomatic relations with Israel doubled and foreign investment rose from less than \$400 million in 1992 to \$2.4 billion last year.

Focusing on a programme for currency reforms, the Israeli government is already too busy with the economy to worry about the peace process. Meanwhile, the dreamers on this side of the divide will still be waiting for the next crisis that might topple Netanyahu.

The writer is owner and manager of a public relations and graphic design firm. He contributed the article above to the Jordan Times.

Globalisation: Real benefits, but also real costs for many

By Fred Hiatt

WASHINGTON — Opposing trade liberalisation is counterproductive as a response to anxiety about globalisation, but the anxiety is real and well founded. Those who would promote open trade have to acknowledge as much.

In general, globalisation promotes prosperity; countries which have opened themselves to trade have done better than those which build protectionist walls. But globalisation hurts some people and certainly does not help everyone equally.

Some countries, and many workers within all countries, are left behind. "Perhaps the greatest risk," writes Dani Rodrik, an economist at Harvard's Kennedy School, is that globalisation will lead to "a new set of class divisions."

He makes this point in a recent book entitled "Has Globalisation Gone Too Far?" — to which he answers "No, but..."

This is not the first era of globalisation, he points out. The world economy was possibly more integrated in the late 19th century, in terms of trade and foreign investment. Inequality increased then, too.

During that first era of openness, labour was far

more mobile than today (it was a time of mass migration). Now highly skilled and professional workers are mobile, either physically or via computer, but most countries no longer welcome unskilled immigrants.

Meanwhile, companies that once were anchored in their communities can easily pick up and relocate. In fact, companies which do not go where they can manufacture and operate most efficiently will soon be overtaken by those which do.

So capital can move, but labour cannot; business executives are in a strong bargaining position, but workers are not; and the result is pretty much what you would expect.

Taxes on capital throughout the industrialised world have been decreasing, while taxes on wages rise. The Economist reports corporate taxes' share of U.S. federal revenue has fallen from one-third before World War II to 12 per cent now, with income taxes filling the gap. The trend is similar in Europe and elsewhere.

Companies' ability to resist overtaxation can impose a fiscal discipline that would benefit an economy regardless of the demands of globalisation.

In the long run, though, it could also lead to a race to the bottom among countries low-

ering tax rates to attract business and thereby finding themselves unable to pay for the very programmes — such as education and training — that their people need in order to adjust to a globalising economy.

At the same time, those benefiting least from globalisation would be paying a larger and larger share of taxes.

So there are two related negatives: growing inequality and a loss of national sovereignty. Nations are beginning to respond by seeking coordination in policies that used to be confined within national borders: labour standards, pollution control, and trust rules, bribery laws. Taxation policy eventually will be added to the list.

More and more, politicians will come to see coordination as a way to restore some measure of sovereignty. Corporate leaders may come to welcome some consistency in rules governing corruption, labour rights and competition policy.

"I think it will happen in pieces," says the Boeing chairman, Philip Condit. "I think the World Trade Organisation is a way of beginning to put a world discipline on these kinds of issues. It's not a two-year process. It's a fairly long process."

Globalisation may increase inequality, and opponents of trade pacts often sound as though the world has been going downhill since tariffs began to come down. But U.S. unemployment has not been this low in more than two decades. And, as the United Nations' recent Human Development Report notes, "in the past 50 years poverty has fallen more than in the previous 500."

Overall, trade promotes prosperity — and growing prosperity is a necessary precondition for the kind of convergence that Mr. Condit is talking about.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky has an ambitious second-term trade agenda. She wants to push for more U.S. exports by sector (agriculture, telecommunications) and by region as well as by country. She also wants to push for more international coordination in labour, corruption and antitrust policy.

But she cannot do it without congressional approval, and Congress is unlikely to approve unless President Clinton fights hard. He will have to confront the anxieties as well as champion the negatives of global integration.

The Washington Post

LETTERS

Equality through education

To the Editor:

AS AN American who has lived in Jordan for three years, I cannot but agree with Natasha Twaal who, in her letter "Equal opportunity" (Jordan Times, June 19, 1997) tries to show something that I always felt: that women are not treated as equals. I am only surprised that she seems so surprised by the fact.

Irrespective of what any man in Jordan says, women are treated just like children: told where to go, who to go with, who to talk to, who not to talk to, what to wear, and, lastly, stay at home.

Jordan might very well want to move in the direction of equality, but until men are educated and women are allowed to be themselves and have some freedom, the country will not move an inch forward when it comes to equality.

Laurie Abu-Obeid,
U.S.

Society on the Move

It's not always a matter of approach

Earlier this month we reported on the Amman meeting of the Steering Committee of signatories to the Copenhagen Declaration, a document which sets a path for "people to people" contact to support the Arab-Israeli peace process. What we have learned now is that the secretariat of the Louisiana Process, the actual "people to people process" that led to the Copenhagen Declaration, reported that the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to post a regional advisor in the Middle East to deal with regional cooperation. Such a person, the report said, could also be a Danish contact point for the Louisiana Process in the region. The Dunes have been in the forefront of leading this endeavour. Following the Steering Committee's Amman meetings four sub-committees reported on the work of their panels. The sub-committee on the implementation of peace agreements, chaired by Abdel Moneim Said, director of Al Ahram's Strategic Studies Centre, which seeks to monitor the Arab-Israeli agreements for violations, recommended giving priority to the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo accords and surveying the related societies "because of the urgency of the situation." The regional cooperation committee, chaired by Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, former Jordanian minister of industry and trade and former executive secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), will develop project proposals, with priority given to projects that support the Palestinian economy. The sub-committee on violence, chaired by David Kimche, former director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, decided to confine its deliberations to the interpretation of the Copenhagen Declaration, namely of physical violence and/or the incitement to physical violence set a broader goal of not simply monitoring violence but monitoring ways of controlling it and measuring the effectiveness of such control. The sub-committee on settlements, chaired by Riad Malki, a prominent Palestinian political activist and former leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, agreed to respond immediately to any breach to the stated position on settlements as outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration through "strong statements." It also agreed to start "fact-finding" visits to settlements by Israelis and Palestinians.

THANKS, BUT NOT THANKS: While the "people to people" approach may be agreeable to some, the "party to party" concept may take some work. The Jordanian Communist Party has declined an invitation from the Israeli Communist Congress to attend their upcoming annual Congress. Personally, a party official said, the group supports the congress, but no one will go. "This is part of our policy against the Netanyahu government and our tendency against the peace process," said a JCP member. The JCP congratulated their Israeli comrades, and say they will publish their message to the congress in the party's paper, Al Jamahir, but members will not attend the event.

THE FORM OF PROTEST: On the campus front, messages were somewhat less courteous. Local news reports of some members of the Student Council of the University of Jordan on Monday using "elbow grease" to stage a protest against former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, have been confirmed by a senior university official. The Israeli leader presented a lecture to the International Leadership Academy programme attendees who have been in Jordan for one month participating in the pilot project of the United

Notions University. The University of Jordan provided the lecture halls for the ILA programme at the Faculty of Education building. University officials were not in attendance of the student demonstration nor at the ILA activities, for that matter, as the ILA agenda was "dedicated" to the participants. The elbow grease came into play, not when the 150 students, mostly women, issued flyers, but when they brought buckets and brushes, detergent and disinfectant and washed the steps of the new faculty where Mr. Peres had walked.

OFF TO SEE THE QUEEN: One invitation we know has certainly been accepted is that of Jordanian textile merchant Youssef Muasher and his wife Julie. The Muashers have been invited to a garden party by Queen Elizabeth on July 17, 1997 at Buckingham Palace in London. Mr. Muasher has already left Jordan for the U.K. and is happy about being personally presented to the queen. "I have a long history of doing business with Britain by importing textiles and threads for my factory. I did not expect this invitation, but I think they had information that I have been doing business with British factories for the past 55 years," Mr. Muasher says. But this will not be the first time Mr. Muasher visits England and meets the queen. In 1968 he was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire) Medal from the queen. That sits alongside several medals Mr. Muasher has received from His Majesty King Hussein and from Pope John Paul II. "The invitation is not as important to me as is serving my country," he says. Mr. Muasher started his textile business in 1933, and established the Jordan National Bank in 1955. Born in Salt in 1918, he opened a shop in downtown Amman in 1938 for textile and ready-made clothes, with a capital of JD 120. The shop, "Youssef Muasher's," still sells by the metre down on King Faisal Street. Married in 1943, the Muashers have six children.

THE RIGHT DESIGNS: Abdul Ghani Tabbalat was appointed acting director of Al Hussein Sports City replacing Mamoun Nurgadin who returned to the prime ministry as director of the prime minister's office. Mr. Tabbalat, 42, who has been deputy director of the Sports City, is an architect specialised in sports construction. He obtained his degree in Pakistan and is the designer of the Al Hassan Squash Complex at the Sports City. An accomplished athlete himself, Mr. Tabbalat plays squash, practices Tae Kwon Do, and is a ham radio operator.

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Long-time General Manager of the Amman Amra Forum Hotel Ali Beisha is heading to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Mr. Beisha will join the Forum chain's sister organisation and become general

manager of Al Medina InterContinental Hotel as well as regional director for InterContinental in both Mecca and Medina. Already at work as the Amman Amra Forum's new general manager is Frenchman Pierre Weiss. Mr. Weiss has nearly two decades of hotel experience, primarily with the InterContinental chain. He has worked in numerous African states and Europe. His last appointment was at the InterContinental Hotel in Luxembourg. Mr. Weiss says he is delighted to discover the charm of Jordan and its people, and he is particularly pleased with his team of Amra staff. The hotel itself has been undergoing renovations in various facilities including the pool and fitness centre, due for completion on July 1 and at end of August, respectively. The Amra also hopes to open its new indoor pool at end of October. Mr. Weiss, whose Swiss wife Rita will join him in a few months, says his intention is to carry on and keep the edge on the four-star hotel markets in Amman. To say farewell to Mr. Beisha and welcome Mr. Weiss, Dr. Safwan Toukan, Director General of the Social Security Corporation, the major shareholder of the Amra, is hosting a cocktail reception at the hotel's swimming pool next week. You can bet all the staff will be on their toes that night.

CLUB TALK: More than a year after the resignations of Derek Ledger as Royal Automobile Club (RAC) director, the RAC board of directors agreed to name private sector civil engineer Hasan Aloeddin to the vacant post. In the interim between official directors the club was run by Samir Jarrou. Mr. Aloeddin, a long-time member was in charge of motor sports for the club. The RAC at present is undergoing major renovations which comprise added facilities and services. Its upper pool area has been expanded by a larger terrace and now has a service bar. When the pools close on October 1, works will begin on a new restaurant. Also on the grounds future plans for a fitness club, extra parking, a new playground for children and a bicycling area. The improvements, many of which were called for by club members themselves, will most probably be completed long before construction of the new Dunes Club on the Queen Alia Airport Road. Mr. Aloeddin welcomed the establishment of Dunes Club saying Amman could use more clubs. He does not see additional clubs as a threat, even with the establishment of fitness centres and pool facilities going up in the capital's new luxury hotels. In fact he banks on the RAC members' loyalty and expects few, if any, crossovers.

RECYCLING: Alya Azar, a 21-year-old community educator at Friends of the Environment (FOE) has been selected to attend (on a Canadian International Development Agency Scholarship) the 1997 Summer Programme of the Harmony Foundation's Institute for Environmental Values Education. Ms. Azar, a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, obtained her undergraduate degree in environ-

mental sciences and geography. She plans to continue her studies but is currently working in Amman. She is an active member of FOE, a non-governmental organisation seeking to promote environmental awareness. Ms. Azar also works with different schools which teach courses on the environment. She will return to Canada, but this time to spend eight days at Pearson College of the Pacific, near Victoria, British Columbia, with her peers from across Canada and around the world. The group will address global and community concerns, and the links between social, economic and environmental issues. Ms. Azar will share with other participants the environmental problems that face Jordan and environmental education in Jordan will be of prime concern at the conference. When she returns to Jordan she will share her experience with other environmental educators. The Institute for Environmental Values Education is a programme of Harmony Foundation of Canada. Harmony Foundation is an organisation that has won international acclaim, including awards from the United Nations and the Commonwealth Foundation, for its environmental educational work.

IN THE WINNER'S SEAT: Royal Jordanian has announced that it will give away a total of 200 round-trip free tickets during the month of July to passengers flying between Amman and New York. This is part of a month-long celebration to commemorate the first direct flight between Jordan and the United States. The free tickets will be raffled on board each New York flight to and from Amman. In addition, some give-aways and other promotional items will be presented to the passengers during the flights. When Alia, as it was then called, flew a brand new 747 on July 11, 1977 from Amman to New York, it was the first time travellers were able to fly direct from the Middle East to the United States without having to change planes in Europe. Today, the airline reports that more than 50 per cent of the air travel movement from Jordan is destined to the United States.

ARRIBA! ARRIBA! If Mufiq is a favourite haunt of yours, you may be happy to learn that a local businessperson is planning to open a 200-seat roof restaurant in the city. The proprietor, Mohammad Dughni, tried his luck at business in Venezuela when he was in his 20s. He succeeded, (even picked up the Spanish nickname Julime) returned home to Jordan in 1980 and has since been in real estate. Mr. Dughni, who says he would like to get in touch with other Spanish-speaking folks in Jordan, expects to open the doors to his establishment, which will serve traditional and continental fare, in mid-July.

Jennifer Hamarneh

The unenviable task of policing paradise

By Tim Minogue

LONDON — Pitcairn Island is to get British-style policing for the first time since the mutineers from the Bounty settled there 207 years ago. The British government's decision comes after a report by a senior British detective who visited the tiny Pacific dependency last year to investigate an allegation of rape. Detective Superintendent Dennis McGookin travelled 12,000 miles last year from London to Pitcairn, which outsiders have often mistakenly looked on as the epitome of the idyllic South Pacific paradise. No charges were brought after the two-and-a-half week inquiry, as police concluded the allegation was unfounded. But on Mr. McGookin's return, he reported serious concerns about the lack of policing on the island to Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials. A Foreign Office spokesman said Whitehall had now established a £30,000-a-year "Pitcairn Island Good Government Fund." The money would pay for a British "community-style" policeman to spend six to eight weeks a year there. "Only 38 people live permanently on Pitcairn," said the spokesman. "It would not be viable to send a police officer out there full time. We must be sensitive to the islanders' feelings,

For 207 years the descendants of the mutineers from the British ship Bounty have lived on Pitcairn Island, one of the remotest spots on Earth. Officially under British control, the community has been largely left to look after itself. Now London is to send a policeman

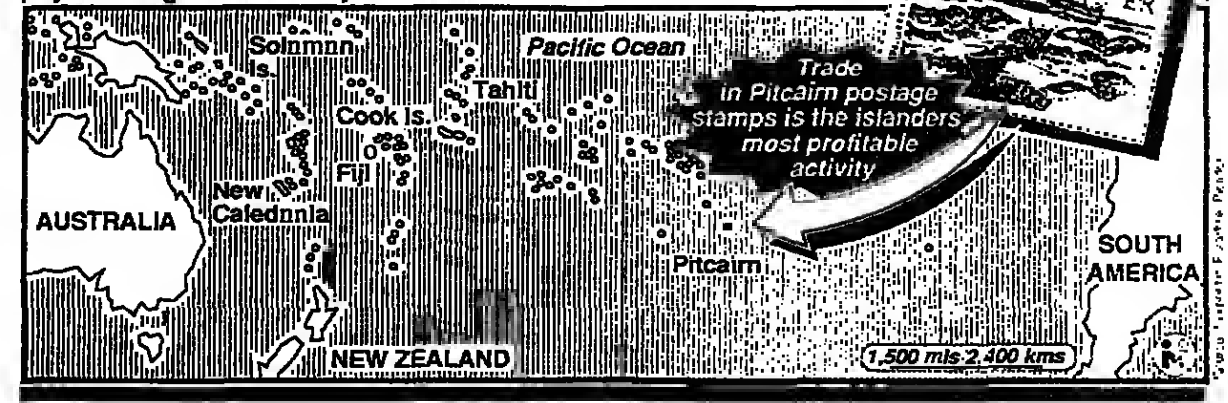
but we also have to discharge our responsibility for our dependent territories. I'm sure the islanders will be very happy with the decision. We haven't discussed whether the officer will be armed yet. We can't rule it out at this stage." Pitcairn, measuring only two-and-a-half miles by a mile, is near the centre of the Pacific Ocean, about 3,200 miles from New Zealand and a similar distance from South America. Its inaccessibility made it a perfect hideaway for the survivors of the mutinous crew of His Majesty's Armed Vessel Bounty and their Tahitian consorts when they sought refuge there in 1790. Pitcairn has no airstrip and ships call infrequently. Mr. McGookin was accompanied by a British police colleague, Peter George, and by the New Zealand-based commissioner for Pitcairn and former schoolteacher Leon Salt, plus a solicitor to represent the accused. Mr. McGookin and Mr.

George, the first British policeman to set foot on Pitcairn, flew to New Zealand to meet Mr. Salt, then joined the cargo ship America Star in Auckland for the 10-day voyage to the island. They returned via Tahiti on a chartered yacht. On the way to collect them, the yacht was hit by a whale and had to turn back. After eventually picking them up, it ran out of fuel on the way back to Tahiti and the detectives had to survive on raw tuna. The Pitcairn islanders, descendants of mutiny leader Fletcher Christian's original 27-strong group of English and Tahitian settlers, grow sugar cane, arrowroot and breadfruit and sell baskets and wood carvings of sharks to passing ships. Their most profitable activity is the trade in Pitcairn Island stamps. There is no organised tourism. The inhabitants speak Pitkern, a mixture of English and Polynesian. Many 18th century expressions are still in everyday use, including

"musket" for "gun," "yonder" for "over there" and "tarry" for "wait." The islanders are all Seventh Day Adventists, a Christian denomination which abhors alcohol. The island has no recent history of serious reported crime, although its early years were a mayhem of racial and sexual violence and alcohol abuse, even by 18th-century standards. There were 13 murders in the first three years of settlement. The magistrate's court has not sat for 20 years and a three-cell jail built for the 1990 bicentenary has never been used for prisoners, although it has proved useful for storing lifejackets. It is a tight-knit community, suspicious of outsiders. Writer Dea Birkett, whose book about her stay on Pitcairn, *Serpent in Paradise*, was published in May, says she is not surprised to hear of concern about policing. Birkett was virtually ostracised by the islanders after a brief affair with a local man. Captivated by the idea of a Pacific paradise after seeing a film based on the Bounty mutiny, she had determined to visit the island. "When I was planning my trip to Pitcairn, I read that it was a crime-free society, a paradise," she says. "But it's only crime-free in the sense of no news of incidents reaching the outside world." She points out that in

Pitcairn Island: the bounty of the mutiny

In 1789 the crew of the British vessel, the *Bounty*, mutinied, cast Captain William Bligh adrift and sailed into the South Pacific. Along with the Tahitians and Polynesians they picked up on the way, they eventually landed on Pitcairn, one mile wide, 2.5 miles long, and 3,000 miles from the nearest land mass. Their 38 descendants still live there. The inhabitants all became Seventh Day Adventists, a Christian sect, after conversion by a visiting US missionary in 1886.



Trade in Pitcairn postage stamps is the islanders' most profitable activity.

Pitcairn's closed world, small disputes that would easily be resolved elsewhere often fester for years. "No-one is independent or uninvolved on Pitcairn. Everyone is related in many ways to everyone else. So there is no impartiality and no-one to settle disputes. As a result there are sisters there who have not spoken to each other for years." "The trouble with such a small place is that there's no means of escape. If you have an argument with someone, you can't go away for the weekend to cool off. You can't avoid the other person."

"The islanders, men and women, take it in turns to act as 'police officer,' but they have no training. If someone commits a crime, it is bound to be the police officer's husband, wife, brother, father, uncle or cousin. It is impossible for them to be impartial, however hard they try. Bringing in a British 'bobby' even for a few weeks a year, is a good idea, but I don't envy him."

Everyone has a fantasy that Pitcairn is the perfect place, she says, but "I discovered it as flawed as anywhere else. Being perfect is too heavy a burden for the Pitcairn islanders to bear. They are good people, but their situation is bad."

If anyone, however even-tempered, was marooned on an island 3,000 miles from the nearest land mass, with no method of escape, nowhere to go if things got out of hand, we'd all be driven to extremes. The island's deputy governor, Christopher Shute, based at the British High Commission in New Zealand, recently returned from a trip to Pitcairn to explain the new policing arrangements. "The islanders have welcomed the news," he says. "There are no particular problems of a serious nature, but impartial-

Constants and variables

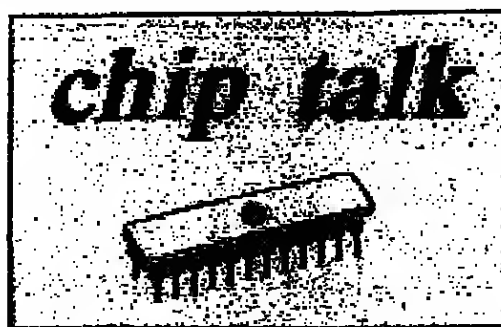
By Jean-Claude Elias

ALL THOSE involved one way or another with information technology have learnt to live with fast, continuous changes. Seasoned professionals, amateur users and "enlightened" users alike have understood that the only way to stay alive with computers, to stay afloat I would say, is to be able to learn new ways, new machines and new programmes. Depending on the product, the change may occur as often as two or three times a year.

Among all these changes that have a discouraging effect in the best case and a truly traumatic one in the worst, we still can count on a few constants. Don't think the computer industry for that, these constants have nothing to do with design or manufacturing, they come from our own mind, our body and a couple of solid, environmental facts.

As long as we, human beings, are the prime interface with the machines, a few factors will remain the same for a while, preventing dramatic modifications in the computer field. For the foreseeable future and unless a mutation in our genes takes place, our physical dimensions and abilities will remain fairly stable. The size of our hands and our fingers, that we use to manipulate the mouse and type on the keyboard, our visual acuity — barring some minor variations from one individual to another — the time we can spend exploring the Internet, so many factors that contribute to define the limits of how much PCs can change and how we use them.

We all live 24 hours per day. Deduct the number of hours one spends sleeping, eating, resting, washing, driving, working, shopping, etc. and we're left with three to five



hours available for our computing time. This assumption does not even take into consideration leisure time like playing sport or watching TV, nor does it include those whose daily work consists, precisely, of working with computers. Internet service providers want us to surf on the World Wide Web as much as possible in order to benefit from the wealth of information it can offer. But even if one's mind is ready for that, it is physically impossible for anyone to have enough time to explore even a small fraction of the Internet, however, interesting it may be. The time limit is one that won't be pushed back soon.

Some will probably look at our human dimensions and at the time limitations we live by as negative elements that will slowdown the progress of both the machines and the giant networks. Others will thank God for these constants — a few elements we can count on in the ever spinning maelstrom of technical changes.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

FACT FILE

• THE FIRST newspaper in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was issued in 1920 carrying the name "Al Haq Ya'loo" meaning, "Right has the upper hand." The first four issues appeared in Ma'an; the others in Amman. Mr. Mohammad Al Anasi was its Editor-in-Chief.

• IT was in 1945 that the first issues of Al-Ra'ed Al-Arabi (The Arab Pioneer) came into being. Its front page was adorned with the picture of His Majesty, the Late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

• IN the first issue of "Al Haq" (The Right) newspaper (1947) Late Saad Jum'a, its editor-in-chief, wrote an article entitled "A Minister's Integrity" expounding his pain and complaint for not having a phone in his office at the time. It is worthy of notice that the paper was written by hand.

• IT was the thirties that the first Jordanian magazine came into circulation. "Al-Hikmah" (Wisdom) was the name of that magazine. It was headed by Mr. Nadim Al Mallah and tackled different religious, literary and social issues.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

WISE SAYINGS

- ** Spend and God will send.
Israf ma fil-jalb ya'teek ma fil-ghaib.
- ** When friends quarrel, foes profit.
Masa'ib qawn inda qawn fawa'id.
- ** Negligence makes the thief.
Al-mal as-sayeb yu'allim al-haraam.
- ** To each saint his candle.
Koll sheikh wa lahu tariqah.
- ** Where friendship exists ceremony ceases.
Etha hasalat al-ulfah saqatat al-kulfah.
- ** A full mouth makes the mouth run over.
Kathratul maal tutliq al-lisaan.
- ** Union is strength.
Yadul-lah ma'al jama'a.
- ** A word to the wise is sufficient.
Al-labib minimal istaarah ya'ham.
- ** Set a thief to catch a thief.
La yafill al-hadid ella al-hadid.
- ** A hungry stomach has no ears.
Indal butoon tadee al-uqool.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Is par always 100?
2. In English money, what is a bob?
3. In stock market language, what are cats and dogs?
4. With whom is the slogan 16 to 1 associated?
5. What was the first bank in the United States?
6. For what is Lombard Street famous? Where is it?
7. Define moratorium.
8. In what country was the pengo used?

JOKES

• WIFE (addressing a friend of hers): "I've eventually managed to prevent my husband from biting his nails. A bad habit, isn't it?"
FRIEND: "Yes, how could you do that? Have you trimmed his nails?"
WIFE: "No, but I've smashed his teeth!"

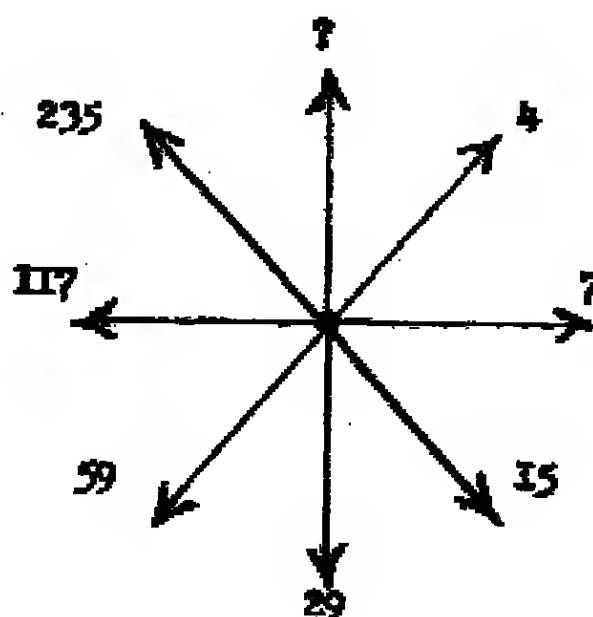
• ONE NIGHT the electric current was cut off.
FATHER: "Please, pass me the match-box on your right hand, son."
SON: "Good heavens! How can I distinguish the right from the left in the dark?"

PUZZLES

(A) THE INITIAL letters will name the breed of dog.



(B) Insert the number missing from the top of the drawing.



Gossip — the most efficient weapon in our society

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

READING ON in my dear Professor Nighish's book on failed ideas, he goes on to list the following as further examples of failed good ideas:

- 31 — Literature
- 32 — Friendship
- 33 — Equality
- 34 — Restaurant memberships
- 35 — Gossip

This last one made me pause for thought for a few seconds.

A few seconds which were enough to have made me think about those things I had been hearing, and reading about.

At the end of those seconds, I arrived at the conclusion that the dear professor was wrong about this particular one. Gossip was not a failed good idea. On the contrary, this was quite a successful bad idea. And the worst of its kind.

Having got this far, I decided to take on the good professor's infamous computer, and test its reaction to some gossip currently in circulation.

For this, I fed into it the following rumours:

- 1 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the imminent increases in the prices of drinking water and irrigation?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
- 2 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the high-school administrators who had managed to confiscate a number of X-rated videos in one of our secondary schools?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
- 3 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the traffic light whose malfunction was joyously welcomed by nearby residents?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
- 4 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the officials who are hanging up the phone lines whenever contacted by journalists?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
- 5 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the driver who was given a traffic fine for not having a smooth beard?



— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.

6 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the negative effect that a tunnel under-construction is having on an adjacent hospital?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.

7 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the anger of the clan one of whose members was made to retire?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.

8 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the JD5 monthly increase in salaries to compensate for price rises?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.

9 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the newly developed hair treatment systems which will give you your hair back once you start to lose it?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.

10 — What have you to say about the rumour regarding the exemplary friend who turned out to be a talking dictionary?
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown.
— Unable to compute! Quantity unknown. Disk Full!
Disk Full! Danger!
(A BIG BANG)

As I was finishing this article, I was beaming with glee at the thought of having proved the professor wrong, at having shown that he and his mighty computer were out of touch with everyday realities, and ultimately, at having blown his bloody computer into bits.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 26, 1997

- 3:30 The Holy Koran
- 3:35 Soccer Match — Mexico vs. Costa Rica
- 5:00 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Step By Step
- 8:00 World Echo
- 8:30 Documentary
- 9:10 Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Comedy
- 11:00 Tennis From Wimbledon

- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema Cinema
- 8:30 The Churchills
- 9:10 Renegade
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 One West Waikiki
- 11:15 Tennis
- 12:05 Final America Cup

Monday, June 30, 1997

- 3:30 The Holy Koran
- 3:40 Spirou
- 4:05 Neighbours
- 4:30 In The Wild (Doc.)
- 5:00 Tilt
- 5:30 Blue Heelers
- 6:10 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Murphy Brown
- 8:00 Discover Magazine
- 8:30 Murder She Wrote
- 9:10 Highlander
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:35 Comedy
- 11:10 Tennis

Friday, June 27, 1997

- 3:00 Holy Koran
- 3:05 Leo The Lion — Cartoon
- 3:30 Wish Bone
- 4:05 Neighbours
- 4:30 Winners Down Under
- 5:15 Varieties
- 5:30 French Film
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Family Matters
- 8:00 The Health Show
- 8:30 Hawkeye
- 9:10 500 Nations
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Comedy
- 11:00 Tennis

Saturday, June 28, 1997

- 3:30 Holy Koran
- 3:40 French Programme
- 5:00 Tilt
- 5:15 Blue Heelers
- 6:00 French Programme
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Hanging' with Mr. Cooper
- 8:00 Magazine Zero One
- 10:00 Soccer Game
- 11:45 Tennis

- 3:00 Holy Koran
- 3:40 Spirou
- 4:00 Quarter-Finals — Ladies Tennis From Wimbledon
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 Tilt 23.5
- 8:30 Encounter
- 9:10 Nature Of Things (Documentary)
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 West Beach
- 11:15 Drug Wars

Wednesday, July 2, 1997

- 3:30 Holy Koran
- 3:35 Cartoons
- 4:00 Tennis From Wimbledon
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Grace Under Fire (Doc.)
- 8:00 Soldier's Diary
- 8:30 Challenges
- 9:10 Spencer For Hire
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Cobra
- 11:30 American Gothic



Jeff Goldblum

Jeff Goldblum is having a monstrously good time

By Douglas J. Rowe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jeff Goldblum flounces in, flirts and fools around. And if he's feeling a little full of himself and having a tonne of fun, why not?

He's been in the top two moneymaking films of the decade, and now he's in a movie that might make it three. Wheeeeee! Life is good.

He walks the walk of a successful movie star, almost gliding as he enters a conference room in the midtown offices of Universal Studios, producers of The Lost World: Jurassic Park, which has box-office totals already approaching \$200 million after just three weeks. He sees a comely blonde who's helping to take his photograph, has her remind him of her name since it's been a year since she last took his picture, and proceeds to hum, repeat her name like a mantra (unlike his character in Annie Hall he doesn't forget this one) and generally act like, as he himself puts it, a "simpleton."

He's malleable and agreeable as he poses, and mugs and vamps for the camera.

"I'm a puppet on a string," he says as the photographer puts him through his paces. "I'm like Mr. Pipe cleaner."

Because of the whirl of publicity for Steven Spielberg's sequel to his megahit, Jurassic Park, Goldblum is asked if he has been working hard.

"Well, if this looks like work," he tells the photographer, striking another pose. "You're working harder than I am."

He works the mantra enough to acquire a phone number and find out that he and the photo assistant have a mutual friend, Dean Devlin, producer and co-writer of the other top-grossing film Goldblum has been in, last summer's Independence Day.

Devlin once joked that "in Hollywood, there's a law that says when you do a sci-fi movie you have to have Jeff Goldblum."

The thing is: It's no joke. Goldblum's sci-fi roles amount to a billion-dollar filmography.

Once the camera shutters stop whirring and he settles down to talk, Goldblum says he feels grateful to be in these ultra-megablockbusters.

"It's nice for me, and good for me professionally. I'm enjoying a range of choices now, more than ever," he says. "I feel lucky, because it's not like it's the result of some sharp strategy, you know. It's just kind of come about."

It's fun when everybody knows about the movie you're in, he says, and it sure beats being in movies that come and go so fast no one even knew it was at the cineplex.

He's still in those kinds of movies. Just last year, he starred in something titled Trigger Happy, which recently came out on video and was savagely panned by critics.

"A lot of movies, and movies I'd still love to be in and have been in," he says, "are special and only intended for a select audience, and are riskier in material perhaps, venturesome, different."

The 44-year-old, 1.92-metre actor has filled a wide range of roles over the years, going back to his early, small parts: A rapist in 1974's Death Wish, the disco owner in Thank God, It's Friday, the People magazine writer in The Big Chill, and a NASA recruiter in The Right Stuff.

It wasn't until 1985 that he got his first leading-man role, in Into the Night. Both he and the movie fared poorly, though.

Then in 1987, he flew into stardom in The Fly, playing Seth Brundle, a scientist who transmogrifies into a mutant hybrid. (He co-starred with Geena Davis, who became his second wife.)

It's roles such as that and the ones he's played in his three biggest movies that have led critics to say he was born to play eccentric scientists.

"Sounds flattering to me," says Goldblum, who grew up one of four children in an upper-middle-class suburb of Pittsburgh. "It's flattering to be given these couple of parts where they think I come off especially smart. That's nice. Me, I have a high school diploma. In school, I made good grades, I must say, but it was an academically not very demanding school, and I wasn't particularly interested in math or science or anything like that. My dad was a doctor, but I was interested in sports and piano and painting and stuff like that."

If fact, he still plays the piano every day. "It's a lovely part of my day that I don't have to plan or anything. I just pass the piano and will find myself there for a couple hours sometimes."

In the last year or so, he's been getting together and jamming with some friends in Los Angeles area clubs. "It's just for fun. It's no career," he says.

Goldblum acknowledges that he's no longer engaged to Laura Dern, who co-starred in the original Jurassic Park, but he says he's trying to make sure his personal life is "not part of the entertainment."

"The truth is I respect her terrifically," he says. "I adore her as a person. We're lucky in each other's lives very closely, not traditionally together right now. But yeah I'm trying to keep all of that aggressively undisplayed."

It's not that he's been burned, he adds: "I feel, I smell how it can add an unpleasant challenge to the whole thing. So far, it's been OK. And people have been either disinterested nicely or respectful, but I now know that before I learn any hard lessons I'm really going to try to keep it apart, absolutely apart, and not part of the show."

Peter Fonda comes full circle as a celluloid grandfather

By John Rogers
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Not that it needed another, but here's one more signpost to the baby boomer mortality: 1960s anti-hero Peter Fonda has a new movie out, one that's being hailed as the best thing he's done since Easy Rider. Only this time, he plays a grandfather.

"That's cool. That's great. Though it does seem weird," he says, guffawing loudly at the seeming contradiction.

"Almost 30 years later," he sighs, before letting his voice trail off.

Does that mean, one asks, that he's come full circle? He smiles again and nods in agreement.

Indeed, it has been 28 years since Easy Rider burst onto the scene to critical praise and Academy Award nominations (Fonda for screenplay, Jack Nicholson for supporting actor). And in doing so the movie garnered a fair amount of outrage for portraying two motorcycle-riding dope dealers (Fonda and Dennis Hopper) and a drunken attorney as heroes.

But now the 58-year-old Fonda, married for more than 20 years, "a father for 33 years," has come full circle in more ways than one.

"A lot of people go, 'it's a role your father could have played,'" he says of his part in Ulee's Gold, that of stoic, solitary beekeeper Ulee Jackson.

"And I go, 'yeah,'" Fonda adds, using the word yeah as an explanation point.

Then, sounding somewhat awe-struck, he says of his late father, Henry Fonda: "Just being compared to him is an honour."

Not that Fonda hasn't built his own respectable body of work over the years. He has directed and

starred in such films as Wanda Nevada and The Hire Hand. And he has acted in numerous others, including Grace Of My Heart, Escape From L.A., and cult favourites Race With The Devil and Wild Angels.

Ulee's Gold, though, may represent the best work he's ever done.

"It's something I was never offered before," he says quietly. "I prayed to the film gods that I'd get a shot at the character."

Writer-director Victor Nunez says Fonda was always on a short list of candidates, but there was one thing in particular that helped win him the role of the taciturn patriarch forced to raise his two granddaughters when his son is sent to prison.

"I thought he really had an understanding of who Ulee was, based on the inside, but also from the outside, having been a child of a Ulee," Nunez says.

Fonda agrees, noting that his father, like the fiercely independent loner Ulee Jackson, was a good and decent man, but one never at ease in showing his feelings, particularly to his family.

"So when I went to my well (to study the character), I had inside information," he adds, chuckling.

It was method acting, he continues, the kind his father "used to always make fun of Jane and me for studying."

If his father was reticent, Fonda comes across as anything but. Although soft-spoken, there's a touch of the raconteur in him. He delights in telling stories that run the gamut from acting tips to speed limit laws to building boomboxes; from his famous family to lesser-known friends and neighbours.

"Paul Williams. The composer, singer, little short

guy," begins one typical anecdote. "I don't know him but I just happened to sit next to him on a plane once and..."

Then it's on to another tale, this one involving Nicholson and how they'd run into each other at an art exhibition. And how he and Hopper have ragged on Nicholson for years to write the script for a motorcycle movie they could all star in.

"He says to me (switching now to a dead-on Nicholson impersonation), 'Fonda, I'll do it. We'll make it when we're all in our 60s. And it will make a bit.'"

"I said, 'Jack, I like your finances,'" he adds, laughing heartily.

And there is, of course, much to say about his family.

"More people talk about Bridget," he says of his daughter, actress Bridget Fonda, "because she's wonderful. She's a great actress, she's a beautiful woman. She's kind-hearted, very generous. ... We watch Preston Sturges movies together — and we weep."

Still, it annoys him that some people don't even know he has two sons, Justin and Thomas, "who are very cool, man, very, very cool."

Justin also followed him into the business, as a camera operator.

"His nickname is Tack because his focus is tack sharp," Fonda says. "I did a little piece for Jane and Ted, and Justin was my second assistant camera operator on the show. There I was being slayed by my own son. I thought that was radical."

His other son, Thomas, studied for his master's degree in metallurgy at Montana State University, where Fonda himself lectures on media and career arts as an adjunct professor.

He moved to Montana



Peter Fonda in the movie The Hire Hand

more than 20 years ago, settling in a cabin 60 kilometres from Yellowstone National Park, an area he says is ripe with transplanted Hollywood celebrities.

"Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan have a place 20 minutes down the road from me. And Jeff Bridges and his wife have a ranch four kilometres away."

Still another resident is his famous sister Jane. The two-time Oscar winner is retired from acting, he says, and he doesn't know if she'll ever come back.

"I would hope so because I'd like to work with her," he adds. "All I can tell you

is the expression I saw come over her face when she told me she was quitting. It was a look of total relief. Like, 'I don't have to do this anymore.'"

As for himself, Fonda indicates he's nowhere near ready to quit.

Still rail-thin, that distinctive square-jawed face almost enthralled by age, he doesn't look all that much different in person than he did in Easy Rider. His dress on this particular day, blue denim jacket and jeans, boots and a black T-shirt, make the comparison all that much easier.

For one thing there is still

that movie to make with Hopper and Nicholson, though the reality is it probably won't be another biker film.

"It would just be compared to Easy Rider," he says seriously, "and after all that's been written and said about Easy Rider, after what an icon it's become, I don't think that would be fair."

In the meantime, now that he's broken through the age barrier, he wouldn't mind more of those Henry Fonda-type roles, either.

"If this represents the hack years of my life," he says reflecting on Ulee's Gold, "well, I can hardly wait."

Bollywood prays for a hit as Indian films take a TV battering

By Madhu Nainan
Agence France Presse

BOMBAY — India's film industry, under increasing pressure from television, is desperate for a box office hit after a string of big-budget flops, producers and analysts said.

"There have been no box office hits since January. This has created a financial crisis for distributors all of whom have bought rights from producers," said producer Syed Ayub.

Mr. Ayub, a producer of films and television soap operas, said the situation was "unprecedented."

"In the previous years we had at least a couple of films hitting out to be box office hits in the first half of the year," he said.

The Indian film industry is based in Bombay — nicknamed "Bollywood" — and churns out about 1,000 films a year, a total unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

About 15 per cent of the films are in Hindi, the country's official language, while the rest are in scores of regional languages.

Mr. Ayub said a string of big-budget Hindi films had been released during the past few weeks "but just three or four will cover costs."

The biggest flop, Mr. Ayub said, was "Mrityudata" (Harbinger of Death) which had the country's highest-paid star, Amitabh Bachchan.

Bachchan, 55, is paid about 50 million rupees (\$1.4 million) a film and usually plays Rambo-style roles.

"Mrityudata was the costliest film sold so far, at 200 million rupees (\$5.5 million) but has been the worst in Bachchan's career and the biggest flop for the industry in the past five years," he said.

Theatre Owners Association President Udharam Thadani said about half of

all Hindi films made a profit.

"We have not had such a bad time in several years," he said, blaming "careless" producers for failing to take the increasing threat posed by cable television programmes.

"Most of the new films are very badly made, with a poor script and weak story line, though technically they may be good," he said.

"Producers are taking viewers for granted, thinking that technical effects and big-budget productions will sell the films."

"With so many television channels, viewers cannot be sold anything. When they

see a bad film, the word spreads around and that film is doomed, even though it may have been shot at exotic locations outside India."

Cable television came to India around four years ago, revolutionising viewers' choice. There are further plans to introduce more satellite channels in India.

Thadani also pointed out: "Production costs and artists' fees have more than doubled in one year and all this is finally passed down to distributors, who cannot recover money paid for distribution rights, if a film flops."

About 20 million Indians are estimated to go to the

cinema each day.

Earlier this month 57 people were killed and more than 100 injured in a stampede when a short-circuit in a transformer in a New Delhi cinema containing an audience of more than 1,000.

The cinema was showing one of the few hits around, the movie Border, which revolves around the real-life story of an Indian army unit during the 1971 war between India and Pakistan.

Despite the tragedy, the film is continuing to draw full houses in the Indian capital.

H. Kong entertainment industry likely to weather handover

By Karen Lowe
Agence France Presse

LOS ANGELES — China's looming takeover has not clouded Hong Kong's vibrant entertainment industry, that, experts say, could explode rather than wither under Beijing's rule.

Moreover, entertainment executives operating in Hong Kong say that within the next five to ten years it will be Hong Kong, not Beijing, that will be the chief artistic influence in Chinese filmmaking.

"There is too much going on there for it not to be. Residents have gotten used to a certain standard of artistic freedom," said James Kralik, who heads Hong

Kong-based Lark International Entertainment.

Lark Entertainment has distribution rights to all the Bruce Lee films and 24 Jackie Chan movies, and has entered into joint ventures in Hong Kong that increasingly will produce more quality films, Kralik said.

When China becomes a key Hong Kong movie market, he said, there will be a mammoth demand for Chinese-language films for the country's growing population of younger residents with money and leisure time on their hands.

Indeed, while some businessmen have long since fled the British colony in anticipation of the July 1

Chinese takeover, the local entertainment industry stayed put. Circling are foreign media investors who smell profits.

"We're definitely not pulling out, but we will wait for about six months before we decide whether to expand," said one satellite television company executive here who asked not to be identified.

For the time being, Asian audiences are being fed a steady, low-protein diet of Baywatch, Dallas and Knots Landing reruns. But Hong Kong-based industry executives say that will change.

Western movies that long dominated Hong Kong's film and television industry are increasingly taking a

backseat to homegrown films that cater to local tastes, culture and language.

"People want to be entertained in their own language with their own day-to-day worries and with the subtleties of their own language," Kralik told industry leaders from both sides of the Pacific at an entertainment forum here.

"There is finally the consumer power in Hong Kong to justify the big budgets that Hollywood produces," Kralik said.

Eighty per cent of the money Hong Kong's six million inhabitants dish out for movies comes from films made in Hong Kong. Those same movies can be offered to Taiwan's 20 mil-

lion people, many who have the means to go to the cinema, Kralik said.

"This is rare to find. Not even France and Germany can compete because they don't have the critical mass" in terms of paying moviegoers that Hong Kong has, he said.

As the local-based entertainment industry consolidates in Hong Kong, Taiwan and eventually China, it will become increasingly harder for those who are not players now to penetrate the market later.

Mindful of this, entertainment attorney Stephen Scharf at the recent Asia Society Entertainment Forum urged U.S. and European movie studios, cable

and satellite television executives to get a toehold in Hong Kong now.

To be there when the entertainment industry shifts, Scharf said, "you have to be there at the beginning of the industry and you have to be prepared for a long-term investment because there will be risk."

And while the proliferation of cable channels and satellite television has created a dire need for creative content, Scharf said it has also generated lucrative opportunities for Hollywood's unrivalled technical expertise.

"We have to build theatres, launch satellites, uplink digital content," Scharf said. "This is an enormous opportunity to invest."

Hong Kong handover inspires retro fashion in Shanghai

By Lou Siew Ying
Agence France Presse

SHANGHAI — Patriotism whipped up by Hong Kong's imminent return to Chinese sovereignty has found a novel way of manifesting itself in China's fashion capital with the comeback of the figure-bugging Qipao dress.

Shanghai's women, famed for their beauty and good figures, are turning themselves out in adaptations of the Qipao, popularised worldwide by Suzie Wong, the prostitute heroine of the Hong Kong novel The World Of Suzie Wong.

The sheath with high slits

which moulded every curve of Suzie's and is still the preferred dress of some 'Tai-Tais' in Hong Kong and some other South East Asian capitals is an adaptation of the flowing Manchu Qipao.

The dress, regarded as bourgeois, disappeared in China during the Cultural Revolution, from 1966 to 1976. But with the opening up of the country, fashion houses have sought to revive it, with some success, as a uniform in restaurants and hotels.

The tide seems to have turned this year as young women take to the streets in Qipao-inspired tops called "Kuas" and even full-length

outfits with provocative cutouts.

"Since march, made-to-measure Qipaos have become more popular," said Fu Mingfang, an official with Pengjie Garment Company, which specialises in tailoring Qipao dresses.

"The ceremony for the handover of Hong Kong will come soon and some women who know Qipao is popular in Hong Kong are quietly wearing them in the streets to show their patriotism," Fu said.

Ye Tianmin, a designer with Shanghai Tongxing Fashion Garment Factory, said an implicit reason for the

revival was the spirit of revolt against imperialism as Hong Kong's handover — widely seen as the last retreat of British imperialism — draws close.

The Qipao was developed from the Manchu dress as a protest by the Han race, to which most Chinese belong. Han women were forced to wear Manchu garments — a loose tunic with wide sleeves, side slits and high collars. Ye said.

The high collars, the sleeves, the waist and for length of modern-day Qipao had further been adjusted to meet the demands of working women, Ye said.

Fu said the Chinese had changed their concept of the dresses which they once regarded as the attire of the upper class.

Improving living conditions and the redivision of society into classes made some people feel that wearing the Qipao conferred status on them, he said, adding it had become de rigueur as party dress and part of the travelling wardrobe.

The Qipao shows off the figures of well-endowed Shanghai women while for the few who are less well-endowed, it can hide defects.

Gao Xiaomei, an English-language programme director

at Shanghai Television, said she wore the Qipao for formal occasions because "it is unique and draws the attention and admiration of my colleagues."

Oil painter Chen, whose works sell like hot cakes and received wide publicity on television shows where they are used as part of the sets, admits his art had probably spawned a fashion trend, though he did not set out to do this.

"My paintings have likely influenced Shanghai women's dressing and made their life more colourful and improved the way they hold themselves. It is a good and pleasant thing," he said.

Better floss — Bad gums linked to heart attacks, premature births

By Daniel O. Haney
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Anybody who has ever been to a dentist has heard it already: Flossing and brushing keep the gums healthy so your teeth don't fall out. But more could be at stake than mere teeth, studies show.

Maybe your heart, for instance. Scientists are investigating the idea — odd as it sounds — that bad gums create mischief in places far from the mouth. Indeed, they say the bacteria that live around the teeth, or perhaps the body's reaction to them, may even contribute to the diseases that eventually do you in.

At a recent conference on the subject at the University of North Carolina, Dr. Raul Garcia playfully flashed a slide that summed up what many in the audience were probably starting to think: "Gum disease kills," it warned. "Floss or die."

Dr. Garcia, a dentist at the veterans administration outpatient clinic in Boston, is the first to admit none of this has been proven. No one can say with certainty that bad gums do anything worse than ruin your teeth. But a strong circumstantial case has started to form.

"It's not an unreasonable hypothesis, although on the surface it appears to be a leap of faith," says Dr. Steven Offenbacher, a dental researcher at the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Offenbacher is studying the possibility that gum disease is a major trigger of premature births. Others are examining the theory that it helps clog the arteries and cause heart attacks. Still others won-

der if it contributes to diabetes.

About three-quarters of adults over age 35 have some degree of periodontal disease, a painless condition that often gives off few warnings except, perhaps, red gums and bleeding when brushing.

Under the surface, however, are pockets of infection that contain, literally, billions of bacteria. If this oozing mess was out where it could be seen, it would be a honeycomb of pus the size of the palms of both hands.

In theory, this load of bacteria creates a smoldering, low-grade infection that inflicts its damage slowly over time. The main evidence so far comes from studies that follow large numbers of people to see if those who have bad gums fare differently from those who don't. The studies strongly hint that people with periodontal disease have a higher than usual risk of heart attacks.

Among the most impressive is the VA's normative aging study in Boston, which has followed 1,231 men who were outwardly healthy when they were given thorough dental exams in the 1960s. The men who started out with bad gums have had about twice the death rate in the years since, especially from heart disease.

Another study, conducted on 44,119 male health professionals at the Harvard School of Public Health, also found poorer health among men who were missing many teeth, a sign of gum disease. During six years of follow-up, those with 10 or fewer teeth had about a two-thirds higher risk of heart disease than men with close to a full set of teeth.

Yet another study from

the Marshfield Medical Research Foundation in Wisconsin checked on the health of 9,760 Americans surveyed in the early 1970s. By 1987, heart disease was 25 per cent more common in those who had gum disease at the outset. But the risk was especially great for men under age 50 at the start. They had about a 75 per cent greater risk of heart trouble.

These studies suggest bad gums could be as strong a risk factor for heart attacks as smoking cigarettes, which is blamed for about 40,000 heart-related deaths a year.

The statistical link with premature births is less convincing, but it is one researchers are pursuing avidly because of its clues for dealing with an especially knotty public health problem. About 250,000 infants are born premature and dangerously small in the United States each year, prematurity is by far the leading cause of newborn deaths.

Doctors have long noticed that women with bad teeth seem more likely to give birth prematurely. Dr. Offenbacher studied 124 women and found those with gum disease were about eight times more likely than usual to deliver dangerously small premature babies.

Extrapolating such a small study to the entire country is risky. But it raises the possibility that bad gums might be responsible for 18 per cent of all low-weight premature births.

Doctors are intrigued by the idea that something as simple as treating bad gums might lower this risk.

Of course, no one has proven yet that attending to people's teeth will have

any effect whatsoever. Still, Dr. Harold Slavkin, head of the National Institute of Dental Research, seems convinced this research is going someplace important.

"I bet this will pan out," he says. "The mechanism is not understood, but there may be a solution before we know how it works."

Indeed, how it works is a mystery. But there are three main theories:

— Gum bacteria escape from the mouth, perhaps when people brush, then travel through the bloodstream and release dangerous toxins in distant places. A chief suspect, the dental bug porphyromonas gingivalis, can make blood clot and may help clog heart arteries this way. Gum germs have actually been found inside artery-plugging plaque.

— Bacteria-fighting blood cells give off a variety of proteins that could have unintended harmful effects throughout the body. Among these are such potent chemicals as tumour-necrosis factor and prostaglandins. Some of these may trigger too-early labour by making the uterus contract.

— Gum disease is not doing anything bad at all. Instead, a tendency to have gum disease, heart attacks and premature labour all result from the same underlying deficiency, such as perhaps a gene that makes the immune system over-react.

"Like everything else, it's probably a combination of these," says Dr. Robert Genco, a dental researcher at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Curbs on gene screening

In 1995 a British company began selling tests to identify carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene.

It created public demand for regulation of genetic testing.

Britain's advisory committee on genetic testing now recommends:

✓ Obliging companies to explain the potential for discrimination if employers or insurers learn of adverse results

✓ Preventing companies from offering genetic tests directly to children under 16

✓ Not testing children to find out if they will develop incurable illnesses

✓ Permitting only doctors to administer genetic tests on children

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How a crossed Czech helped fight genetic disease

By Sanjiva Wijesinha

MELBOURNE, Australia — My colleague Tomas is a lucky man.

His first stroke of good fortune was to be born in Prague shortly before the era of Alexander Dubcek, who led the 1968 Czechoslovakian Communist reform movement.

Unfortunately, since Dubcek was a visionary born 20 years before his time, his liberalisation was short-lived. So, once Soviet tanks rolled into Prague, Tomas' parents decided prudently to migrate to Australia.

Having arrived in Melbourne, Tomas had his second stroke of luck. He went to a good school, entered Melbourne University, and in due course, graduated as a doctor. Which is how I came to meet him, since we found ourselves a couple of years ago working in the same hospital.

Fortune blessed him again when, at university, he met a girl in love with and married a Sri Lankan medical student. By the time I met Tomas, he and Nelun had a beautiful six-year-old child — who seemed to have inherited her father's intellect, her mother's good looks and the Devil's own charm. Tomas used to refer to her proudly as "our crossed Czech."

Having gone into detail about Tomas' good luck, I must put the record straight and mention that his family

had some bad luck going for it as well. Two of the four children born to Tomas' parents had died in early childhood — victims of an inherited disease called mucoviscidiosis, or cystic fibrosis.

This disease (which I did not see during the years I practised in Sri Lanka and Hong Kong) is the result of the body's mucous and sweat glands functioning abnormally. The sweat of affected children is highly concentrated and salty, while the mucous produced by the digestive system, and lungs become abnormally thick and sticky.

Consequently, children with cystic fibrosis cannot secrete digestive enzymes such as pancreatic juice — and so they cannot digest their food properly and thus fail to thrive. At the same time, their airways become blocked, with the result that they suffer from persistent coughs and chest infections.

Since there is no definite cure for the disease, until a few years ago most affected children died before they reached adulthood. Today, sufferers can be

given artificial pancreatic enzymes orally, which can be taken with meals so that their food can be digested. They can also be given prophylactic antibiotics to prevent them getting chest infections.

Unfortunately, these therapeutic measures have to be started in infancy and continued for life.

Cystic fibrosis, which is almost entirely confined to families of European origin, is inherited only if both parents have the abnormal cystic fibrosis (CF) gene.

All babies inherit 23 pairs of chromosomes from their parents, and these 46 chromosomes contain the genes which carry the characteristics we inherit from our ancestors. The abnormal gene that in almost all cases is responsible for cystic fibrosis is carried on chromosome number seven. But for a child to be affected, it must receive a CF gene from both parents.

People with only one CF gene, therefore, will not have the disease, but they carry the abnormal gene, and can pass it on to their

offspring. If both parents carry the CF gene, their children have a one in four chance of being born with the disease — as happened to two of Tomas' unfortunate siblings. If, however, a carrier (as Tomas quite likely is) marries a non-carrier (as Nelun almost certainly is) then it is virtually impossible for their children to be born with cystic fibrosis.

If Tomas had remained in Czechoslovakia, where there are more carriers of the CF gene than there are in Sri Lanka, he would have had a much chance of producing a child affected by cystic fibrosis.

Although I am sure that such considerations did not enter his thinking at the time that he and Nelun were contemplating marriage, serendipity (from the Sri Lankan tale of The Three Princes of Serendip) has favoured him. By seeing that the children he fathers will have acquired genes from Australia's large and varied non-European gene pool, Tomas has ensured they will not suffer from the same terrible disease that killed his brothers and sisters.

Which, Tomas says, is one of many good reasons for marrying a Sri Lankan rather than finding himself a Czech mate.

"After all," he adds, "what better way of crossing a Czech?" — Gemini News.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

BOUQUET

By Gayle Waters Dean

ACROSS

- 1 Syrup tree
- 4 One who writes
- 10 "Onion" character
- 14 Claret carter
- 18 Archangel
- 21 Dryer for stuff
- 23 Missus
- 25 Religion
- 26 Poltergeist
- 28 Hammer part
- 29 Hammer's name
- 30 Puns
- 32 Rich source
- 34 High degree
- 35 Calm
- 36 Desecrate
- 38 Luscious
- 39 Pious
- 41 Field tin

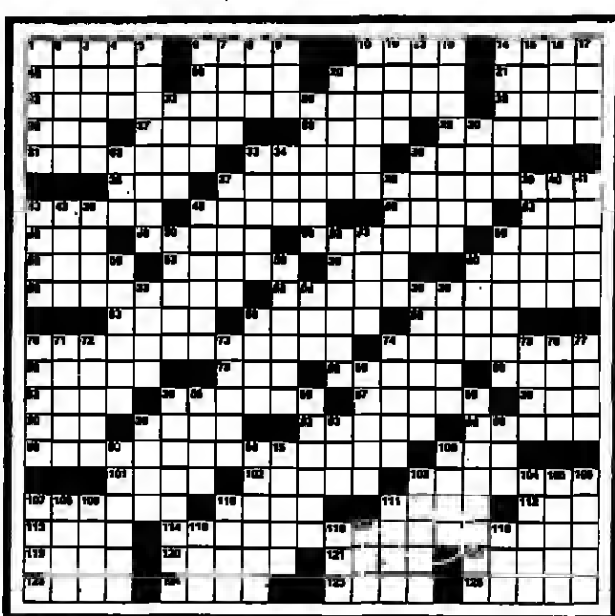
DOWN

- 1 Shear Sam had
- 2 Two
- 3 Come up
- 4 Heaped
- 5 Garland
- 6 Thrilling
- 7 Schism
- 8 Hat dweller
- 9 In the same place
- 11 Shuffled
- 12 Solitary
- 13 Decayed
- 14 Malicious plot
- 15 Woody's boy
- 16 Ring up
- 17 Madras
- 18 In conflict with
- 19 Search out
- 20 Church officers
- 21 Sins
- 22 Draw a bead on

- 42 Nobel physicist
- 45 Snake to a mongoose
- 47 Party food
- 48 SL
- 49 Indian island
- 51 Pigeon
- 52 Indian garment
- 53 Pious lecture
- 54 Synthesis
- 55 On one's toes
- 56 Rain water
- 57 Elms
- 58 Onion of a word
- 59 Laura Dern film
- 60 Pious lecture
- 61 Judicial ally
- 62 Run the wrong way

- 70 Haven first
- 74 A bird
- 75 Bookish item
- 76 Strife
- 80 SHI style
- 81 Food
- 82 River into the
- 83 Capital
- 84 Novel
- 85 Novel
- 86 Puns's den
- 89 Damage
- 90 Pious lecture
- 92 Lab compound
- 93 Synthesis
- 94 Kerfuffle
- 95 Kerfuffle
- 100 Slide
- 101 Tops

- 102 Goes down to
- 103 Group of brilliant people
- 107 Owl order
- 110 Unit of loudness
- 112 Negative
- 113 Tail
- 114 Tasty film
- 115 Voice
- 120 Piece of
- 121 Staircase tile
- 122 Early Ford
- 123 Completely
- 124 Hunkering
- 125 Public show
- 126 Singer Duke



Diagramless, 21x21

By Thomas W. Schler

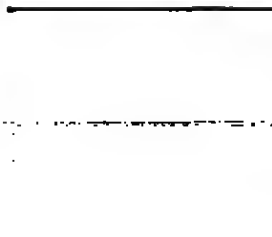
ACROSS

- 1 Evening meal
- 2 Warning
- 3 Shady
- 12 Adolescent age
- 13 Agreement
- 14 Coat, e.g.
- 15 Shell
- 16 "What's in it?"
- 18 Actress Gray
- 19 Foot
- 20 Offender
- 21 Furrow
- 22 Unapproachable
- 23 Actor's lamp
- 24 Mashed —
- 25 Lovers' position
- 26 Lovers' position
- 27 In favor of
- 28 Greek parlor
- 29 Shakespearian
- 30 Sol
- 31 Glove
- 32 Pen
- 33 Lined to
- 34 Close to
- 35 Repetitive
- 36 Which person
- 37 "My country"
- 38 Vase, CA
- 39 Row

DOWN

- 1 Angry
- 2 Submerged
- 3 Shrike
- 4 Scorned actor
- 5 One ear
- 6 Chestnut color
- 7 Welcome item
- 8 Across Throat
- 9 Biddy
- 10 Singer Home
- 11 Post-up
- 12 Sea trout
- 13 "Oh Three"
- 14 Arise
- 15 Gilt, e.g.
- 17 Architect
- 18 Alred again

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Diagramless, 21x21

By Thomas W. Schler

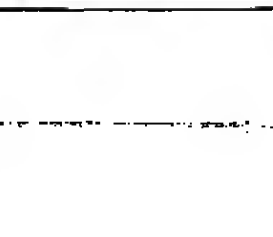
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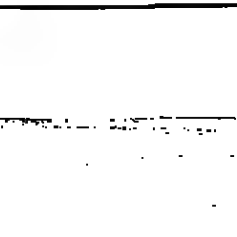
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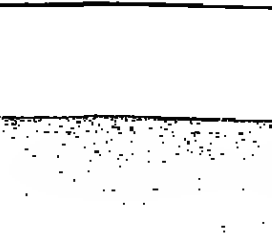
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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Potentially lucrative impotence drug could improve company's prospects

By John Hendren
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The drug that Pfizer Inc. researchers tested on British University students was supposed to raise blood flow to the heart.

The rush of blood filled a more southerly organ instead. In the unpredictable world of drug development, one man's side-effect can be another man's cure. The company is now preparing to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to approve the drug — as an impotence treatment.

The drug, Viagra, could spare users the discomfort of current treatments and, analysts say, make Pfizer a leader in the impotence market. Pfizer expects Viagra to receive FDA approval next year and Lehman Brothers estimates sales at \$500 million by 2003.

The drug owes its marketability less to what it does than to what it doesn't do: Make strong men wince.

Existing impotence drugs must be either injected into the penis or inserted directly into the urinary tract, both unpopular delivery methods. Viagra, by contrast, is ingested in the form of a pill, and appears to have only minor side-effects.

Unlike the injections, which can leave the user erect for an hour without outside stimulation, Viagra allows the user to react normally to sexual stimulation.

"It doesn't make you 21 again, but it does solve the problem," said Robert W. Shay, a 70-year-old Los Angeles resident who has taken Viagra for almost a year.

Mr. Shay, who used to take performance-boosting injections, said Viagra allows him to function about 85 per cent as well as he did when he was younger — about as well as the shots.

The potential market for impotence treatments is vast. An estimated 30 million men in the United States — more than one in eight — have potency problems. The problem gets

worse as men age. Two men in five have problems getting an erection at age 40. Nearly seven in 10 do at age 70.

Pfizer estimates the number of men coping with impotence worldwide at 140 million.

Although penile implants have been available for years, the FDA only approved the first impotence drug, Caverject, in the summer of 1995. The injectable drug from Pharmacia and Upjohn Co. relaxes smooth muscle in the penis, allowing blood to flow in and cause an erection.

Last December, the FDA approved Muse, a suppository version of the same drug, a synthetic form of the hormone Prostaglandin E that is generically called Alprostadil. But Muse still left many users squeamish. To insert the tiny medicated pellet, a slender plunger is pushed 1 1/2 inches (3 3/4 cm) into the end of the penis.

Viagra has been tested in clinical studies, and the results are promising.

In a one-year study of 311 men, 87 per cent of patients appeared to benefit. In another study of 416 men, 48 per cent of those who took a five-milligramme dose and 78 per cent of those who took a 100-milligramme dose said Viagra helped improved their erections.

But effectiveness isn't everything. "If you tell someone you have to shoot yourself in the penis with a needle, most would say no," Mr. Shay noted. That hasn't been lost on analysts.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell analyst Mariola B. Haggard wrote in a report on Viagra's financial prospects that "a pill like Viagra has great appeal."

Viagra works better as an impotence treatment than as a heart treatment to prevent angina, as it was originally intended, because it affects an enzyme, called PD-5, that is found mostly in the penis.

ANSWERS

PUZZLES

(A) WHAT AM I?

SPANIEL.

(B) 469. (Starting with 4, each figure is doubled, and one is alternately subtracted or added).

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. No, a security is said to be at par when the market price equals the par value, or price at which it was issued.
2. Slang term for a shilling.
3. Miscellaneous securities of doubtful speculative value.
4. William Jennings Bryan.
5. Bank of North America in Philadelphia.
6. It is the centre of banking transactions in London.
7. Extension of time for meeting financial obligations.
8. Hungary (used from 1925 to 1946).

Ancient Egypt lives again

By Johanna Kristjundottir

A SMALL island on the River Nile, Jacob Island, a short drive from downtown Cairo, has become a living museum. Visitors to Egypt encounter colourful papyrus drawings everywhere, but probably few are aware that the technique of producing these sheets for script and art was lost for almost a millennium.

Hassan Ragab, a retired Egyptian diplomat, brought the marvellous technique back to life in the 1970s; it entails taking the central pith of the Cyperus papyrus, a tall, aquatic grass-like plant, cutting it into thin strips and drying it to form a smooth, thin paper-like writing surface.

Dr. Ragab and 300 helpers have also recreated an Egyptian village of the 1500 B.C. era and its daily life on the island, one of the many tiny islands on the River Nile.

The traveller entering this village, just a few minutes away from the overcrowded, dirty and noisy streets of Cairo, experiences the euphoria of taking a trip into the past — a past which is quiet and serene.

Ola Mahmoud, a young and knowledgeable guide, says that Dr. Ragab wanted real people in the village, but dressed in the fashion of thousands of years ago. So the 13 hectares of the island were chosen and several thousand trees were planted around the shores. Their purpose was to block the

view of Cairo, a target not quite achieved yet.

The first trees were date palm and sycamore, identified from paintings on tombs; then came other trees and plants known to the ancient Egyptians but no longer found in Egypt.

Dr. Ragab went outside Egypt in search for the plants — mainly in Sudan and Ethiopia — and brought them to the island. Over the next decade, he watched them grow again in the soil that had once been their native home.

Species of flowers, birds and animals found on the walls of tombs in Saqqara, Luxor and several other places were also gathered. Wildlife includes the sacred ibis, the Nile crocodile and the geese of Maideum — named after the town where a 4000-year old painting was found.

While a boat glides soundlessly round the island, replicas of the ancient gods appear amid the papyrus plants and trees. Amon, the king of all gods, is sometimes represented as a human being with a ram's head, signifying wisdom.

Thoth, the lunar god in the form of a man with the head of an ibis, holds the pen and a scribe's ink palette. Horus, the falcon god, symbolises the power of good over evil.

Bes, the dwarf god from the south, and many others provide delightful glimpses into the mind of the ancient Egyptian.

These statues, some elegant and others somehow grotesque, give the feeling that the gods are protecting the village.

The recreation of the life in a village of 3,500 years ago was difficult. It took years of research at museums and universities, not only in Egypt but more or less around the world.

On the island, I visited a nobleman's house. Entering through the gate one sees a garden which has a square pool sprinkled with multi-coloured water lilies and lotuses. To one side is a trellis pergola with climbing vines and on the other side a staircase leading to the roof.

On the veranda supported by four columns sits the nobleman. The veranda is his office, his reception and working room. The nobleman is busy conferring with his scribe.

From the veranda one steps into the hall, which is the most important part of the house. It serves as drawing room, living room and dining room.

To the left side of the hall is the room of the lady of the house where all the ingredients for her make-up can be seen. Sometimes she is attended to by maids who also play the lute for her amusement.

Nearby is the farmer's house with Maideum geese wandering everywhere.

Everywhere in the village people can be seen working: white-robed farmers working in the field, with

others driving oxen and furrowing the land with wooden ploughs. Some are planting seed with a following herd of rams trampling the seed well into the ground.

There is a yard for boat-builders. Some workers are making papyrus, wine and perfume. Potters are at work and fishermen are preparing to cast their nets. Women are baking bread and, to make the village complete, there is a market.

The temple is the only one of the ancient style to be found standing whole in today's Egypt.

Dr. Ragab believed the temple was not only a place of worship but also the house of an ancient god.

Sometimes Dr. Ragab himself is to be found here. He is busy to fulfill at least one more dream on his island — the building of a pyramid.

Ola, the guide, says work began on a pyramid six years ago; it looks far from finished. Not intended to be exactly like the ancient pyramids, its steel frame will house a craft centre and a theatre for ancient songs and dances.

Dr. Ragab and his co-workers have also made replicas of the ancient instruments that appear on tomb walls. Now they need to learn to play them.

The writer is a journalist at the Icelandic daily Morgunblaðið. She contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Promoting Afro-Arab relation — a leadership challenge

By Kehinde Lawanson

THE AFRICAN child was nurtured on the existentials of Afro-Arab affinity. He was schooled in the war exploits of his forbears and the lessons drawn from the cavalry skills of Arabs. A sophisticated war machine on which the effective crusades of the pioneers of Islam rode.

The writings of sub-Saharan African writers and poets like Cyprian Ekwensi of Nigeria, Leopold Senghor of Senegal and a host of others celebrate the Arabian life, its rich arts heritage, the inspirational sentimentality of its music, its unique rhythm and melody, the depth of its visual artistry expressed in sophisticated sculptures and paintings.

Africa sees its history in Arabia — a luxuriant interlock of Africa's rich oral tradition and ageless record of the Arabian historian. Sub-Saharan African life is flavoured with the reality of Arabian influence — its religion — a testimony of very early contacts nurtured in frequent renewals; its dressing modes, whether in the affluent male garb — which the Yorubas of Nigeria call "agbada" or the generous female "boubou", bear imprints of Arabian fashion. Also the indigenous African music is a pot-

pourri of varying Arabian musical regimes.

What then is the difference? What caused the distance? These are puzzling posers on the free run of an Afro-Arab relationship of cold apathy and complacency.

If Africans are the lost kin of the Arabs, why the indifference to Africa's pains? Why the Arabian silence at Africa's deprivation and dilemma — why the Arabian absence in Africa — a passive foreboding that has held back its help and counsel and much more — a silence that has blocked its light from shining through our darkness or its thought fashioning a way in our wilderness.

I have been in Jordan for three weeks — my first visit to the Middle East — I have enjoyed the generous hospitality at all levels of Jordanian society, comparable to the selfless zealotry of an African host. We have met His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen, both quintessential royalty in its most regal and subtle. We have also met His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, who demonstrated presence and attention to detail.

The prime minister hosted us in Amman and in Karak — an invitation to share not only the rich culture but also the love of his people. Jordan also revealed the

relics of its past, with the surviving memorials of invasion and dominance by the Romans and Greeks, which it gloriously survived; it also shared with us its vision of the future which is hinged on the peaceful coexistence of all its neighbours, the prosperity of its people and the upholding of the sacred dynamism of its institution and tradition.

We visited the interesting Wadi Rum, a glow of light seen from the reaches of darkness. It is both beautiful and dreadful. It speaks of peace sprouting out of the ravages of war or beauty out of the relics of destruction and light out of the cold darkness of destruction.

Most African countries severed relationship with Israel in response to the call of the Arabs after the 1973 war. Relationships have only been restored lately, in the wake of a laudable Arab-Israeli rapprochement. This is a debt that has remained unpaid, perhaps subordinated to other interests — very uncharacteristic of Arabs.

In Jordan today there is only one African embassy. In fact, there is no sub-Saharan presence. This needs to change, its place taken by a vigorous and active policy of involvement expressed through the

vehicles of education, commerce and trade, politics and culture. Jordan's voice must be heard as Africa pursues political stability, socio-political integration and economic development.

The Arab presence must be felt as Africa combats famine and diseases. It should also broker peace.

In the skillfully choreographed programme of the United Nations University International Leadership Academy's first leadership programme, participants were randomly placed as guests in some Jordanian homes. My host was a retired Jordanian army general with three beautiful daughters and two sons. The family treated us to a very rich menu of Arabian delicacies. A grandmother in my host's family identified me as an African, sought to know my nationality, which I volunteered. She readily acknowledged that she had met Nigerians in Mexico. Why is Africa not similarly acknowledged by the Arabs?

The International Leadership conference promises and should promote a new dawn in Afro-Arab relations. That is our leadership challenge.

The writer is a participant in the UNU International Leadership Academy.

Cold snap on Mars puts probe in peril

By Steve Connor

AN ATTEMPT to land the first spacecraft on Mars for 21 years is under threat, because scientists got the Martian weather forecast wrong.

They had expected Mars to be, if not dry with sunny spells, at least warm and calm. Instead, in the ultimate long-range forecasting error, it has turned out to be cold and stormy.

Mars, at least 60m miles away, was originally thought to have predictable weather that would pose few problems for the Pathfinder probe as it descended into the red planet's thin atmosphere. The climate turns out to be wildly chaotic, threatening to disrupt the landing scheduled for July 4, American Independence Day.

The Hubble telescope has taken detailed images of Mars showing that its weather can alter dramatically within days. Separate research by scientists at Oxford University suggests that winds on Mars can blow at more than 150mph, making it more difficult for the probe to survive.

Pathfinder, a small spacecraft designed to land with the help of a parachute and inflatable air bags, could be blown off course, said Professor Fred Taylor, head of planetary physics at Oxford.

"The air is very thin but the winds are fairly high. They can get up to 70 or 80 metres a second. This is high enough to have a serious effect when something is coming down on a parachute and trying to land. If it is moving sideways too much it can slam into boulders," he said.

"The initial threat is getting down safely. If it flaps

over from high winds it is designed to make itself upright. It has to do that otherwise it cannot communicate back to Earth."

When the two Viking spacecraft landed on Mars in 1976 they sent back pictures of a planet that seemed calm and relatively warm. The dusty atmosphere was producing a greenhouse effect by trapping solar radiation.

The Hubble telescope has shown that Mars oscillates between that weather pattern and another extreme of clear air with clouds of ice in the sky. Under those conditions temperatures can plummet 100C at night to minus 80C.

The spacecraft must be heated at night to prevent its systems from freezing, but if extra power is needed, its batteries, though rechargeable, could be depleted prematurely. Data may be prevented from being returned to Earth.

Pathfinder is the first attempt to land a roving vehicle on another planet. It will deploy a six-wheeled robot, guided by operators at mission control on Earth, to venture away from the landing site.

The rover will take readings of Martian rock and soil to help shed light on the possible existence of extraterrestrial life.

Dr. Matthew Golombek, the project scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the Pathfinder mission, says that the probe has been designed for climate extremes, but he accepts there may be problems. "We can probably deal with it but we would like to know as much as we can and be prepared," he said. "If it is colder and cloudier, it can

affect things. We use solar power to charge the batteries so the temperature and opacity of the sky is important."

NASA, which has spent \$150m on the Pathfinder probe, admits the weather is going to be "considerably different" to that predicted from the Viking images. "It appears that Mars' roller-coaster-like weather is more chaotic and unpredictable than scientists first thought. Mars is more often cloudy than dusty, experiencing abrupt planet-wide swings between dusty and hot, and cloudy and cold," NASA said.

The Hubble telescope has shown Martian weather changing rapidly from a pink, cloudless sky filled with windblown dust up to a height of 10 miles, to a bitterly cold planet with a deep blue sky and brilliant clouds of ice. "On Earth, a state of emergency would be declared if such an ice or dust storm blanketed the entire planet," NASA said.

Even if the Pathfinder lands at a time when Mars is going through a dusty period, the high winds could still bring the mission to a premature end. Prof. Taylor warned. "You could end up with a dust storm covering the whole planet. It could bury the probe completely."

An unusual aspect of the Pathfinder probe is that it will not go into orbit around Mars but will descend directly into its atmosphere immediately upon arrival, making it impossible to scan the terrain before landing. "Dr. Golombek said: 'It comes screaming straight in. It is a door die kind of thing.'"

The Sunday Times

MARTIAN WEATHER BLOWS HOT AND COLD

Dramatic shifts in climate, from warm and dusty to clear and cold, can occur in a matter of days on Mars

1 A small dust devil

2 A large dust storm

3 A bright, clear sky

4 A dark, cloudy sky

5 A view of the Martian horizon with a small rover in the foreground

The Red Planet
Dusty and cloudy temperatures rise to 20C during the day

The Blue Planet
Clear blue sky as result of temperatures falling to -60C at night

Prince Charles turns architect's dream into reality

POUNDBURY, England (R) — On a lush green hillside in rural Dorset, one man's vision of utopia is being realised.

No ugly television aerials sprout from the roofs, no garish neon lights compete with the sunset, cars are tucked away in paved courtyards and there's not a block of concrete to be found.

After years of attacking modern architecture, Britain's future king, Prince Charles, has put theory into practice and tried to show the world how the traditions of the rural past can live in harmony with the needs of modern development.

The urban village of Pound-

bury, now taking shape on the outskirts of the southwestern market town of Dorchester, is being built on a 162-hectare site sold off by the prince's Duchy of Cornwall estate.

With its winding streets, flint-stone cottages, Georgian-style stone houses and mix of luxury houses and low cost homes for rent, Poundbury embodies the ideals set out by the philosopher prince in his book "A Vision of Britain".

"If development in the countryside is going to take place, then I believe it must be done in such a way as to enhance rather than detract from the surrounding landscape."

"That is what we are trying to do at Poundbury, as well as attempt to engender a sense of community within an environment comprising economic activity and residential use," Prince Charles wrote.

The prince's distaste of modern architecture is legendary. He once slammed a proposed extension to London's classically proportioned 18th century National Gallery as a "monstrous carbuncle" and has

since set up his own institute of architecture to remedy the onslaught of steel and glass buildings.

He was closely involved in every step of the development at Poundbury, right down to the selection of bricks and street lamps.

About 100 of the planned 2,500 houses are now built and occupied as well as a handful of small craft workshops.

Shops and, crucially, an

English village pub are planned over the next two years as the development expands.

The result has been a mixture of styles creating the kind of village that might be recognised by Dorchester's 19th century rural romantic novelist Thomas Hardy.

Sheep graze in a field outside a converted Victorian farmhouse occupied by a U.S. high-technology firm Smith.

Wrought-iron wall lamps shed an orange glow at night. All Poundbury lacks are thatched roofs and horses in the streets.

Crises, many of them victims of royal wrath, call it "retrophilia", pastiche and Disneyland.

"It's ambitions are simply retrogressive. It simulates a world of the past and a hierarchy in architecture that doesn't really have a place any more,"

said architect Piers Gough as building got under way three years ago.

"On the other hand I am glad Prince Charles is building it because at least he can get his teeth into something other than architects. It was about time he either put up or shut up," he said.

Despite, or because of, its unique design and royal patronage, Poundbury has already become a tourist attraction in its own right.

"We get tourists, architects, journalists, school trips, you name it," said Peter Bryant, chairman of the Poundbury Resident's Association.

"They expect you to jump about and perform a circus act occasionally... That's the only snag with living here," he said.

The Poundbury villagers, as they like to call themselves, certainly don't feel as if they are living on someone else's dream, although the social mix of retired people, single mothers, young families and a handful of Canadian and Spanish residents is working just as Charles envisaged.

"There is quite a team spirit, quite a togetherness. We had a bonfire night and a rounders evening and those who couldn't play turned out to cheer," said Mr. Bryant.

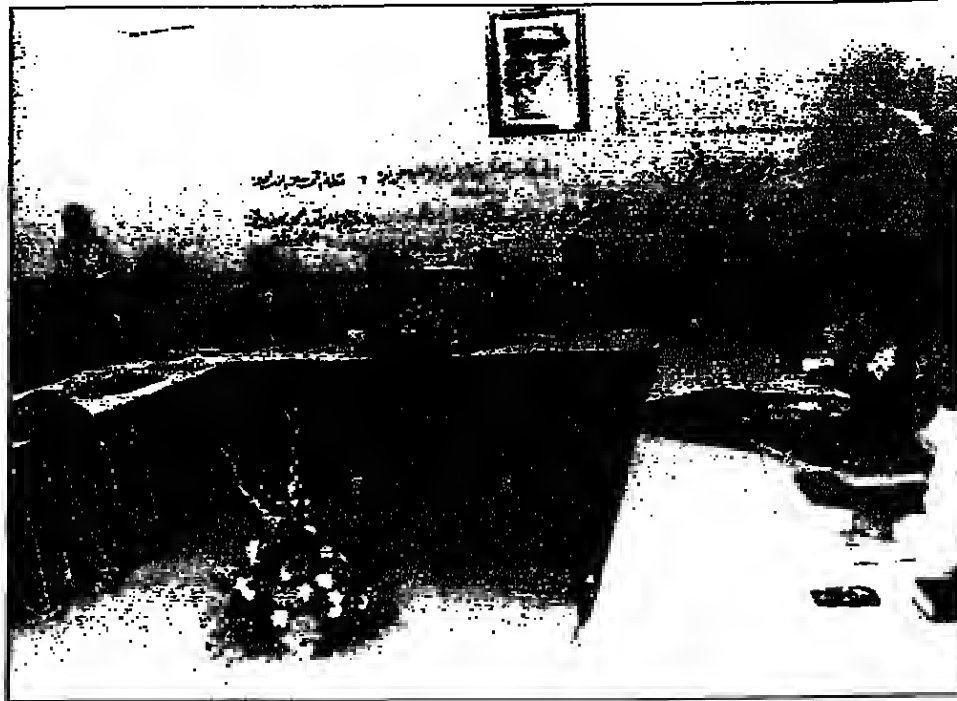
Jordan exerting major efforts to increase agricultural exports, open new markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab states bought most of Jordan's 357,000 tonnes of agricultural exports last year, but the government is seeking to increase the volume of exports and open new markets, especially in Europe. Agriculture Minister Mijhem Khreisha said Wednesday.

Noting that the government is aware of the many impediments that hinder the marketing of crops abroad, Mr. Khreisha said his ministry is exerting all the efforts in this respect and is keen on cooperating with the private sector to boost exports.

Pointing out that Jordan has exported agricultural products to the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon and several Arab states in 1996, Mr. Khreisha said that the Jordanian government has recently concluded an agreement with the European Union to open European markets to Jordanian agricultural exports.

The minister, who was addressing the opening session of a workshop on marketing Jordanian agricultural products, said the government is currently creating sectoral committees within the Jordan Valley Farmers Association to provide better assistance to farmers and guide them towards increasing



A general view of the workshop

output. Hassan Jaber, president of the Agricultural Engineers Association, addressed the meeting and called on Arab governments to open their borders and remove the barriers that have been obstructing the flow of goods among their countries and harming the common interest.

Humam Al Shawa, president of the Jordanian Society of Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables,

demanding that the government draw up a long-term agricultural policy that would prevent the encroachment of buildings on agricultural lands so that people can be encouraged to invest in the land. Moreover, he urged the government to create incentives for farmers who produce larger quantities and to create companies specialising in exporting agricultural products.

The participants in the

workshop reviewed three main working papers dealing with exports of agricultural products, the work of the central market place and the marketing of products inside the Kingdom.

Among the participants were representatives from the Agricultural Engineers Association, the Arab Agricultural and Economic Society, and the association of merchants dealing with agricultural products.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1997

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This could be a very successful day today, with the exception of some difficulty which arises at home and which be dealt with. A successful friend can help you later this evening to be more prosperous so listen carefully.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You should not let a loved one throw cold water on a new project today which could be quite lucrative for the days ahead. Have a happy evening at home with your mate and spend some quality time with him or her.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't allow yourself to be conned today into a peculiar situation by a scheming acquaintance who is only looking out for himself or herself. Listen to the suggestions of your mate later this evening, because you know it is accurate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A well-off friend and a fellow business associate are willing today to back you in a new project, so just ask for their assistance. Avoid a disagreement with your mate or either of you might say things you don't mean.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) A clever fellow associate with good organisational skills can be quite helpful to you at this time, so make some gentle inquiries. Labour on turning your dreams into realities so that you can be quite successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Instead of foolishly wasting your free time today, look around for some method of operation to get ahead on your career activities. Be sure to drive carefully while on the highway later this evening and avoid any difficulties.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Some plan you have to increase production should be discussed today with experts before any action is taken. You should not strain your budget later this evening by purchasing things you don't truly need.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try to establish a firm relationship today with a prominent person who can be of great assistance towards you being quite successful. Enjoy your loved ones this evening and relax for the days ahead will be stressful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make better arrangements with your fellow associates today, and you will gain more cooperation. Rest up this evening with your loved ones, and be ready for a busy time in the days ahead which can be stressful.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are highly motivated today, and you can make big headway in creative areas, so get to it even if you have to neglect other matters. Later this evening will be good for going out on the town with close friends.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A private conversation today with your loved ones can bring greater understanding between everyone, so be sure to make it a friendly discussion. Be sure to drive with great care while on the highway.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) If you are direct with friends and fellow associates today, and let them know exactly what it is you want then you can achieve your desires. Start putting money away in the bank for any emergencies.

Peanuts

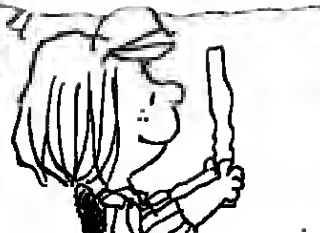
SEE, MARCIE? HERE ARE THE NAMES OF EVERYONE WHO'S UP FOR "OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR". THERE'S MY NAME, SEE?



I COUNTED THEM, SIR.. YOU'RE FOUR HUNDREDTH ON THE LIST..

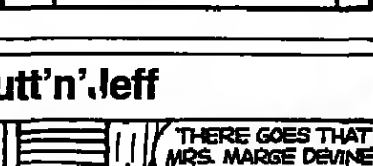


FOUR HUNDREDTH AND MOVING UP FAST!

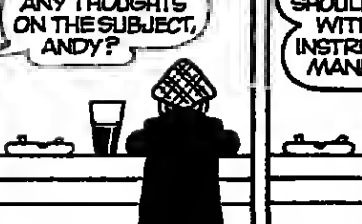


Andy Capp

SHE'S BEYOND ME, JACK. I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE HER.



I WISH I COULD HELP YOU, SON, BUT...



HAVE YOU ANY THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT, ANDY?



Mutt'n'Jeff

THERE GOES THAT MRS. MARSE DEVINE. JUST LOOK AT THE CLOTHES SHE HAS AND THAT CAR!



HER HUSBAND IS PRESIDENT OF ONE OF THOSE BIG COMPANIES WITH MONEY!



WHY DON'T YOU BECOME SOMEBODY?



REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB	TRY
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7228	0.6009	1.4338	113.82	1.3945	1.6822	1.5389	5.8138
DE Mark	0.5806	1.0000	0.3486	0.8348	68.08	0.8096	0.9768	1.1255	3.3769
GB Sterling	1.6643	2.8689	1.0000	2.3967	189.83	2.3214	2.8022	3.2289	9.6888
CH Franc	0.6852	1.1853	0.4172	1.0000	79.28	0.9708	1.1864	1.3488	4.0423
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5128	0.5273	1.2628	1.0000	1.2265	1.4778	1.7025	5.1068
CA Dollar	0.7189	1.2808	0.4386	1.0348	1.22	1.2888	1.3888	1.3888	4.1658
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0233	0.3588	0.8854	1479.35	0.8288	1.152	3.4558	2.9988
NL Guilder	0.5153	0.8833	0.3088	0.7488	58.88	0.7288	0.8888	1.0888	3.2888
FR Franc	0.1728	0.2988	0.1032	0.2488	19.55	0.2388	0.3332	0.33200	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	HKD	SGD	THB	TRY
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7228	0.6009	1.4338	113.82	1.3945	1.6822	1.5389	5.8138
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.4273	0.8225	2.1410	172.87	2.1670	2.1687	2.1687	4.7884
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.4588	0.1005	0.37	3.0805	0.38	4.0841	0.9032	-
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	4.5688	1.6488	4.45	368.05	4.7884	4.7884	4.7884	10.6888
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.4745	0.1604	0.4304	358.30	1.01	4.2188	0.9382	-
Kuwait Dinar	3.3102	5.7438	2.0448	5.678	472.05	12.16	5.08275	0.9382	-
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.4728	0.1623	0.4323	358.11	1.01	4.2188	0.9382	-
Lebanese/1000	0.48	0.8411	0.2425	0.6458	537.04	1.1987	2.3917	-	2.2084
Egyptian	0.2588	0.4488	0.1588	0.4112	338.88	1.0888	1.0888	1.0888	-

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Oil	18.01	18.15	-	-	-	-
Brent	18.01	18.15	-	-	-	-
W. Texas	18.01	18.15	-	-	-	-
Bonny	18.01	18.15	-	-	-	-
Dubai	18.01	18.15	-	-	-	-
UL Gas	129.00	180.00	-	-	-	-

Mid-East Currencies					
SA Riyal	0.2688	0.4594	0.16024	0.43088	36.3688
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4745	0.16088	0.43188	36.3688
KW Dinar	3.3102	5.7438	2.0448	5.678	472.05
BH Dinar	0.3778	0.6508	0.23888	0.64888	537.04
CY Pound	1.9537	3.3888	1.1732	2.8888	222.288

Metal Prices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Gold (ozs)	338.8	338.8	-	-	-	-
Silver (ozs)	4.78	4.78	-	-	-	-
Platinum (ozs)	448.5	447.5	-	-	-	-
AL (3 Months)	1588	1583	-	-	-	-
CU (3 Months)	2388	2388	-	-	-	-
Zinc (3 Months)	1388	1388	-	-	-	-
Lead (3 Months)	618	620	-	-	-	-
NI (3 Months)	7025	7086	-	-	-	-

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.57	5.69	5.75	5.84	5.98
GBP	8.47	8.62	8.81	8.94	7.00
JPY	0.45	0.48	0.50	0.72	0.68
DEM	2.31	2.93	2.98	3.00	3.08
FRF	3.06	3.26	3.32	3.36	3.41
CHF	1.26	1.19	1.25	1.18	1.37
ITL	8.75	8.68	8.55	8.38	8.32

Main Equity Indices									
Index	Value	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open
New York	7760.38	-28.84	-0.33	7760.1	7760.1	7758.06	-	-	-
New York	S&P 500	898.28	-0.28	-0.28	898.52	898.28	898.34	-	-
London	FT-SE 100	4638.8	388	0.38	4638.2	4622.4	4598.3	-	-
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20678.27	337.34	1.66	20736.2	20410.2	20341.9	-	-
Paris	CAC 40	2852.86	86.5	2.88	2858.35	2817.12	2784.76	-	-
Frankfurt	DAX	3798.51	42.68	1.14	3798.68	3784.64	3755.82	-	-

Energy			
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change
Coffee (c/lbs)	Spot	194.42	-
Cocoa (\$/ton)	Spot	1730	-
Sugar (\$/ton)	Spot	322	-
Wheat (\$/ton)	Spot	138	-
Soya (c/lbs)	Spot	22.53	-
Tea (kg)	Spot	138	-
Barley (\$/bsh)	Spot	0	-
Rice (\$/ton)	Spot	480	-

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	-
GB Sterling	1.1907	1.1884	-
DE Mark	0.4108	0.4127	-
CH Franc	0.492	0.4945	-
FR Franc	0.1216	0.1222	-
JP Yen	0.6228	0.6257	-
NL Guilder	0.3648	0.3666	-
IT Lira	0.4203	0.4224	-

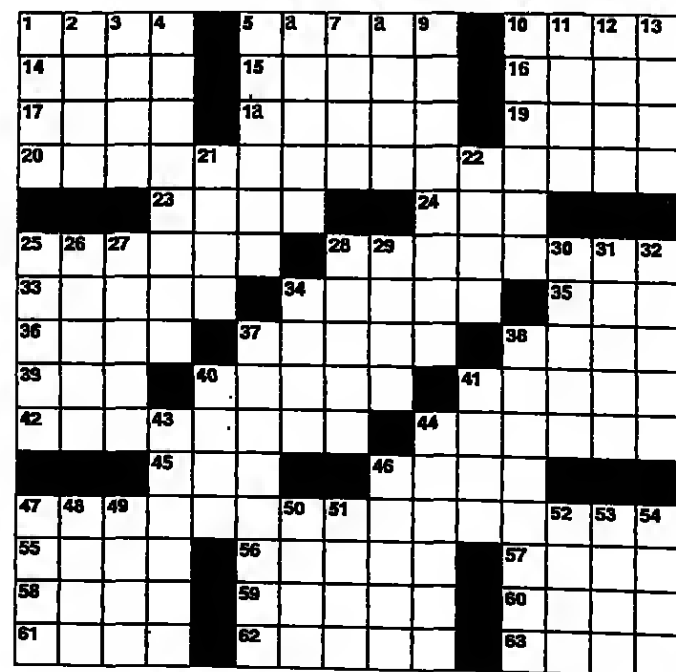
* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Jab
- Shaft of a column
- Beer
- Prayer ending
- Woody of films
- Upon
- Beer measure
- Passé
- Miss Turner
- With little provocation
- Law
- Butter
- Look out!
- Old English battleground
- Soap plant
- Ranee's wear
- Cheer for the matador
- Lass
- Yeltsin
- Certain European
- Wapiti
- Pondered deeply
- Frighten
- Decreased
- Nook
- Apply
- Throwing weapon
- Hasty
- Entice
- "Goodnight"
- Vivacity
- Spoken
- Danube feeder
- Cable
- Elusive
- Emcees
- Slaughter of baseball

- Family member
- Leave out
- Artist Rockwell
- Charm
- Burden
- Boothe Luca
- Voice
- Chirp
- Gives approval
- Deli offering
- Brigham
- Young's state
- Spanish lady
- Argument
- Seine feeder
- Lot
- Hard roll
- Zola
- Labors
- Moved swiftly
- Parched
- Fastballer Ryan
- Stare angry
- Cut
- Angry
- Silvery swimmer
- Mix haphazardly
- Mexican money
- Alone
- Indeed
- Heavenly travelers
- Writer Stephen or William
- gin



by Don Johnson



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HOROSCOPE FORECAST OR THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Try to use more standard, time-proven methods at your career activities. Avoid a new acquaintance who could lead you in the wrong direction from being successful with your business activities in the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You can get some very valuable advice today from an individual with great financial experience who is willing to be of assistance. Some good news will arrive later this evening from out of town which will be beneficial.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Although some concern may be upsetting you today, don't let it throw you off-schedule. Be sure to drive with great care while on the highway later this evening and thereby avoid any difficulties which could exist.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should not listen to the advice of an egotistical friend today, or you will end up in hot water. You can have an interesting evening with friends who have the desire to go out on the town at recreational spots.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid a casual acquaintance today who is motivated only by greed and will not do anything simply for the pleasure. Labour on improving a special talent which can bring your greater prosperity in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Figure out how to make the situation at home today more ideal and satisfying, and steer clear of a new contact who could slow you down. Later this evening will be a good time to seek out knowledgeable people for advice.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be sure you don't get involved in any disagreements over money today with friends or there could be dire consequences. Avoid the tendency to gossip about acquaintances or you might alienate these people.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get into some new interests today which will help to alleviate the boredom of the same old routines. Entertain some friends in your home and thereby you can make them feel comfortable and quite welcomed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You should forget the frivolous amusement you have in mind today, and concentrate on handling your career activities to their logical conclusion. Be sure to drive very carefully later this evening and thereby avoid any confrontation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a commitment you must keep today, so don't let a loved one deter you from this or you might not get anything accomplished. Try to make things easier on your mate this evening by taking over some responsibilities.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You should not waste any time on frivolous matters at this time, employ your time and energy wisely so that you can be quite productive. Improve family relationships later this evening so that everyone will feel contentment.

Birthstone of June: Pearl — Moon Stone

Asia is becoming the world's biggest market for drugs Illicit drugs trade worth \$400 billion a year — U.N.

LONDON (R) — The global trade in illicit drugs is worth about \$400 billion a year and is growing rapidly, the United Nations said Thursday in its first report on the drugs trade.

The U.N. International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) said the drugs trade had become truly global and estimated that 3.3 to 4.1 per cent of the world's 5.9 billion people regularly took illicit drugs.

U.N. officials conceded

the figures were speculative but said it was important to put some value on the mushrooming drugs trade.

"A growing body of evidence suggests the true figure lies somewhere around the \$400 billion level...equivalent to approximately eight per cent of total international trade," the report said.

"Various indicators — emergency room visits, substance abuse-related mortality cases, arrests of drug abusers, number of countries reporting rising consumption levels — make clear that consumption has become a truly global phenomenon," the U.N. body said.

Christian Kornevall, director of UNDCP's division for operations and external relations, said the figures were speculative but said it was important to put some value on the mushrooming drugs trade.

"A growing body of evidence suggests the true figure lies somewhere around the \$400 billion level...equivalent to approximately eight per cent of total international trade," the report said.

"Various indicators — emergency room visits, substance abuse-related mortality cases, arrests of drug abusers, number of countries reporting rising consumption levels — make clear that consumption has become a truly global phenomenon," the U.N. body said.

Officials said one way to treat addicts effectively and run discussion programmes to persuade people — especially children — that taking drugs was

not worth the trouble.

"One of the main problems is the youth problem — people are getting into drugs younger and younger," Mr. Kornevall said.

Over the last 10 years, cocaine production has doubled and there are now 13 million addicts around the world. Heroin output has tripled over the same period and some eight million people are addicted to the drug.

One of the most noticeable changes is the soaring popularity of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), now used regularly by 30 million people.

Mr. Kornevall said the market in so-called precursors — the chemicals used to make synthetic drugs — has expanded 30 times in the last four years.

"Asia is becoming the world's biggest market for drugs and synthetic drugs are becoming a larger market than cocaine," he said.

Organised crime gangs are laundering so much money that some countries run the risk of destabilisation, the report said. Some 10 per cent of Bolivia's labour force was estimated to be working for the illicit drugs industry in the early 1990s.

"Overall, perhaps the most significant impact of money laundering on the legitimate economy is that it undermines the integrity of the financial system and this, depending on the extent and the rapidity of the loss of confidence, can have devastating consequences at national and international level," the report said.

Saudi warns against dealing in counterfeit goods

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has warned traders they will be fined and their businesses closed if they sell counterfeit merchandise, part of the kingdom's crackdown on copyright violations.

The Commerce Ministry issued the warning in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) late Monday.

"The Commerce Ministry has noticed a growth in the import, marketing and sale of counterfeit goods of brands with quality and international reputation," the statement said. It warned traders that "importing, marketing and selling these goods is a crime under the law of fighting trademark violations."

It said violators could be fined a minimum of 5,000 riyals (\$1,333) or a maximum of 100,000 riyals. Their outlets could be shut down for between a week and 90 days.

Saudi press reports often talk of a large market in the kingdom of counterfeit goods like watches and clothes of well-known international brands. Newspapers frequently report seizures of such goods by authorities.

Saudi Arabia has said it is making a major effort to adapt to World Trade Organization standards and norms for intellectual property rights, an important condition for the kingdom's push to join the world trade body.

U.S. tobacco firms seen hiking prices, adding debt

NEW YORK (R) — To pay for the staggering \$365.5 billion cost of a sweeping settlement reached last week, the tobacco industry will be forced to hike retail prices and load up on new debt, industry analysts have said.

The uncertainty surrounding whether the settlement with state attorneys general will pass muster at the White House and on Capitol Hill, and how much it could change in the process, makes it difficult to crunch fixed numbers, they added.

But in the end, the expense will be passed directly to the consumer and will take its toll on sales.

"There certainly would be a lower (sales) volume level in the U.S. cigarette market" as a result of the price hikes, said Roy Barry, a tobacco industry analyst at the Wall Street firm of Oppenheimer Co.

Worst-case projections of sales declines call for a loss of about 10 to 12 per cent, while the best-case estimates see a drop of five to six per cent.

The growth in international sales is expected, but should be tempered slightly by the settlement's effect on overseas consumers. Exports account for the only volume growth in the industry.

One asset manager predicted that tobacco companies would be forced to add debt to their balance sheet to meet the upfront payments required under the settlement.

"Philip Morris might take on some debt to do the upfront payment RJR Nabisco

is more heavily leveraged right now they'll have to take on debt," he said. "The guess on Wall Street is that they'll borrow from someone friendly, maybe even Philip Morris."

According to figures released by Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Gary Black that use 1997 full-year profit-and-loss estimates, the settlement cost to the five major cigarette companies represents about 153 per cent of annual profits, assuming settlement payouts of \$12 billion per year.

Mr. Black and other Wall Street analysts project price hikes averaging around \$0.50 per pack, slightly less than one-third of the current average retail price of \$1.80.

Marketing and advertising will be slashed as a result of the settlement, providing significant savings to tobacco companies. Marketing accounts for about \$0.20 of the retail cost of a pack of cigarettes at Philip Morris, the analysts said.

The per cent of volume sales from discounts is double-digits at every company except Loews Corp. But discount sales may also be limited.

Also unclear is whether tobacco companies will be able to use their insurance policies to reduce the out-of-pocket costs of the agreement. To date, they have not filed claims against their insurers but that may change once they start writing checks.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Transport company distributing dividends at the rate of 11%

**** THE UNIFIED** Company for Organising Land Transport is distributing about JD550,000 in dividends to shareholders at a rate of 11 per cent after recording JD1.2 million net profit in 1996. Board Chairman Mohammad Dalabieh told the general assembly that the company was able to transport over six million tonnes of goods within Jordan and abroad and has paid more than JD49 million in transportation, salaries and benefits.

Captain Dalabieh revealed that the company was working with other transport companies and the Ministry of Transport to establish a specialised transport company that would own 100 trucks. Such a company, he indicated, would have a JD5 million capital of which 40 per cent would come from the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport (UCOLT).

The chairman said the UCOLT will utilise the 475 dunums of land in Qweirah, acquired from the Aqaba Region Authority, to set up a service compound for trucks travelling from and to Aqaba and to also serve drivers' needs.

UCOLT General Manager Mohammad Abu Assaf said that negotiations were still going on with the government to establish a land transport terminal in Amman. The terminal, which will have a cost between JD30 and JD40 million, will be a large building to assemble all the trucks in the Amman area.

The company has stakes valued at JD834,700 in nine firms which have transport-related activities. Furthermore, UCOLT enjoys high liquidity as it held about JD5.3 million in cash and bank deposits at the end of 1996. Total assets amounted to JD9.01 million (JD9.27 million in 1995) while shareholders' equity increased by 7.8 per cent to reach JD6.3 million. Current liabilities at the end of last year totalled JD2.7 million, down from JD3.5 million at the end of 1995 (AJ Aswaq + AJ Ra'i + AJ Dustour).

Mulki stresses that price of cement will not be raised

**** INDUSTRY, TRADE** and Supply Minister Hani Mulki stressed that there is no intention to increase cement prices, noting that there has not been any rise in the prices of inputs. He said that fuel prices did not increase and, as such, prices of transporting cement to the sites will not be raised. The minister added that all indications show that there will be no change on prices until the end of this year at least.

Sources at the Jordan Cement Factories Companies denied reports of higher cement prices and said that there has not been any discussion at all over amending prices (AJ Ra'i).

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 25/06/1997											
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	T / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
PRICE	LOW			SHARES	TRADED	JD	PRICE	PRICE			
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	11.8	1.56	1	40	10280	257.00	257.00	-	
N 2.340	1.480	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	73	39480	84780	2.13	2.42	-12	
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	7.2	0.00	14	6700	23534	3.54	3.42	-12	
1.210	0.880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	63.1	0.00	21	7150	6880	93	96	+03	
2.480	2.120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.4	0.00	3	250	562	2.24	2.26	+02	
5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.95	9	5073	24905	4.82	4.81	-01	
T 3.980	2.440	JOR. ECONOMIC BK.	14.0	0.00	83	73185	30803	3.98	3.18	-20	
1.050	0.780	JOR. GEN. P. BANK	5.3	0.00	11	10276	9248	91	89	-02	
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.28	12	3526	13905	3.65	3.68	+03	
1.800	1.110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	7	0.00	2	350	122	1.22	1.19	-03	
3.800	3.000	JOR. DEV. FOR. BANK	20.4	0.00	4	1300	4159	3.17	3.18	+01	
2.700	1.000	REIT. AL-HAL (REITHA)	7	12.82	18	5500	6464	1.18	1.17	-01	
1.440	1.000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	6	1450	1531	1.06	1.05	-01	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 198.69 CHNG: +0.05											
3.000	2.800	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.0	5.36	1	500	1400	2.80	2.80	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 212.60 CHNG: 0.00											
1.820	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	19	17350	28819	1.68	1.67	-01	
1.840	1.320	LEAD ELECTRICITY	8.2	0.13	1	1000	1380	1.38	1.39	-	
6.100	4.100	ARAB PETRO. CO.	15.1	2.83	2	150	785	5.50	5.22	-28	
2.650	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	15.2	4.98	4	1750	4562	2.62	2.61	-01	
1.180	0.930	MAR. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	16	5700	7261	1.24	1.25	+02	
1.030	0.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.1	0.00	1	200	174	0.86	0.87	+01	
8.10	4.80	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	26.2	0.00	2	2900	1479	52	51	-01	
7.570	3.900	AD-POSTON	24.4	0.00	3	2020	1969	97	97	-	
1.220	0.950	ZAKKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	3	11106	18933	1.70	1.71	+01	
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.1	6.43	24	3	1030	675	67	-03	
1.010	0.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	3	1030	675	0.67	0.68	+01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 109.24 CHNG: -1.47											
4.450	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.4	2.70	71	49989	203901	4.12	4.27	+05	
4.140	2.710	COMPTON/STATE MFGS	10.8	2.56	3	1000	3900	3.98	3.98	-01	
7.060	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.7	2.97	7	7300	43299	6.74	6.74	-	
10.750	8.720	JOR. PETRO. REFINERY	9.6	0.00	6	255	2515	9.80	9.92	+12	
3.260	1.650	INDUSTRIAL CONSLACR.	9	0.00	6	1080	2085	1.95	1.93	-02	
79180	6.400	JOR. MORTGAGE BILLS	10.3	1.13	2	400	2560	15940	6.40	-	
4.000	3.040	ARAB PHARM. NAME	10.6	5.19	9	1750	23138	3.88	3.85	-03	
8.460	4.250	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	13.7	4.46	6	1580	8903	5.65	5.65	-	
3.880	2.770	ARAB ALUM. IND.	61.5	0.06	8	1750	4835	2.90	2.76	-04	
840	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	1	250	118	48	47	-01	
3.110	1.020	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	5.8	0.00	13	13750	14179	1.04	1.04	-	
4.280	3.520	NATIONAL TRD.	9	0.00	3	8100	810	53	54	+01	
1.310	0.580	EXPRESS DELIV. CHEM.	9	0.00	12	5850	3459	61	59	-03	
4.240	3.430	ALADIN CO.	23.4	2.86	1	950	3981	3.99	4.19	+20	
3.330	2.130	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MFG.	40.4	0.00	2	3800	4551	2.55	2.55	-	
4.920	3.750	JOR. SUNGLASS	24	0.00	24	21750	15305	58	59	+01	
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.9	5.00	4	1050	1465	1.40	1.40	-	
2.380	1.280	DEV. MATH. INDOS.	7	0.00	3	7550	4017	1.39	1.39	-	
1.520	1.110	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	15.2	8.85	10	3550	4017	1.13	1.13	-01	
1.600	1.300	NATL. CHEMIST	13.7	4.83	20	2500	3640	1.46	1.45	-01	
1.160	0.840	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.6	0.00	14	9450	8115	95	95	-	
1.330	1.090	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	3	1700	1921	1.14	1.13	-01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 128.33 CHNG: -0.44											
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 160.93 CHNG: -0.24											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 25/06/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	5	3900	1502	39	38	-01	
690	410	JOR. TRADING FMC	12.3	0.00	5	7583	3493	46	46	-	
640	350	UNION INV. SOI	9	0.00	5	12550	2134	67	67	-	
640	350	ARAB PET. INVEST.	9	0.00	8	5525	3762	50	50	-	
N 950	720	AL-SINAH TRD. 752	7	0.00	2	6000	3240	78	79	+01	
550	300	JOR. IND. MATH. TRD.	9	0.00	14	16450	4277	25	26	+01	
720	450	ARAB FOOD & MED.	200	0.00	1	110	110	0.00	0.00	-	
+ 590	420	ARAB TRVL. INV. TRD.	47.2	0.00	3	4500	1845	42	41	-01	
720	460	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	250	124	49	49	-	
780	400	NATL. WOOD. RESOURCES	9	0.00	30	8350	4950	40	40	-	
N 960	900	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.5	0.00	2	2500	2375	95	95	-	
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	7	17800	13024	74	74	-	
580	430	ARAB ELECT. INDOS.	9	0.00	2	479	339	50	50	-	
730	600	KHAYAT PHARM. 751	8	0.00	8	6400	2401	64	62	-02	
1.220	0.850	JORDAN STEEL 752	2	0.00	2	1650	1073	50	50	-	
760	550	FRANK ARB. P. CONV.	8	0.00	2	899	314	57	57	-	
N 1.000	810	EXT. ALUMINUM 752	7	0.00	16	17650	9884	81	81	-	
N 1.020	710	ARAB TRVL. INV. TRD.	2	21.7	2	217	1475	65	65	-02	
870	530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	15.38	17	22700	14755	65	65	-	
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 163 CHNG: 12477											

Youth World Cup

Brazil swamp Belgium 10-0 to enter quarter-finals

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Brazil showed why they are the most feared team in the World Youth Football Championships by romping home to a 10-0 victory over Belgium on Wednesday.

Coach Toninho Barroso's Under-20 wards bettered their 10-3 rout of South Korea earlier in the league with a spectacular goal spree at Kuching.

Adailton Martins, who scored a double hat-trick against the Koreans, managed only one this time to take his tournament tally to 10. But his teammates were devastating.

Alex de Souza led the way with three goals, Alvaro Aquino and Roni Santos pumped in two each while Eder

Silveira, Adailton and Junior Junior also helped themselves to goals.

Brazil, who topped Group B of the preliminary league with an all-win record, await the winner of Thursday's clash between Argentina and England in the quarter-finals.

Belgian goalkeeper Jean-Francois Gillet, who said before the match he would try to contain the rampaging Brazilians, found the task beyond his reach.

He conceded the first goal in the second minute and let in three more before half-time. It was a nine-way traffic after the break as the Brazilians toyed with the hapless Belgian defence.

"Great, just what I wanted," a delighted Barroso said. "I think we played better than against the Koreans. Today's match showed that Adailton is not our only good striker. The others are as capable, as deadly as him."

"This team is growing in confidence. It does not matter whom we play in the quarter-finals. We are ready for both England and Argentina. It will be a good game."

A downcast Gillet said there was nothing he could do to stop the goal hunt. "They were all over the place. I can imagine what the South Korean goalkeeper must have felt."

Kevin Johnson returns to Suns

PHOENIX (AFP) — Phoenix Suns point guard Kevin Johnson, who said throughout last season he planned to retire, will return for at least one more season to the National Basketball Association club.

"In all likelihood, this will probably be it," Johnson said. "I realise that after this season, the suns will go in a different direction. I'm trying to bridge that gap and take them from one era to the next."

Johnson, 31, was given a one-year contract extension that will bring him \$5.4 million, \$1.4 million more than last season.

"I want him back for all the right reasons, but would have certainly understood and honoured his decision if he didn't want to continue to play," club president Jerry Colangelo said.

Johnson missed 12 games with a hamstring injury as the Suns began the season 0-13, but returned to join transfer Jason Kidd and lift the Suns into the playoffs under new coach Danny Ainge.

Johnson averaged 16.8 points and six assists as the suns nearly upset the Seattle SuperSonics in the first round, losing in five games.

"This past season was an end to an era. We're starting a new era," Johnson said. "The difference is, instead of setting down the baton and having Jason Kidd pick it up along the way, I'm going to try to make sure he doesn't drop it."



Brazilian star striker Ronaldo volleys a cross during a team practice session, Brazil will face Peru in the semi-finals of the Copa America South American championships June 26 (Reuters photo)



Tony Dees from the USA (L), Great Britain's Colin Jackson (C) and Larry Harrington from the USA in action during the men's 110 metres hurdle race at the international athletics meeting in Lucerne. Dees clocked a time of 13.46 seconds to win the race ahead of Jackson, who failed to clear the last hurdle. Harrington came in third (Reuters photo)

Inter stand firm over Ronaldo transfer

GENEVA (R) — Internazionale reacted angrily on Tuesday to suggestions from FIFA that they may have contravened international transfer regulations by signing Ronaldo from Barcelona.

Inter, being backed by the Italian Federation, were adamant that they had done nothing wrong and were hopeful that they would get the all-clear to take Ronaldo to Italy.

"We're still convinced of our position because we've done everything by the rules," Club President Massimo Moratti said.

"For now this is only the opinion of a FIFA lawyer. We need to see what the international federation itself does and what official position it takes."

"In any case, I'm amazed that such an opinion has been expressed so late after the event."

Earlier on Tuesday FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said that the transfer of the Brazilian striker may have contravened its international transfer regulations even though the Italian club claimed to have secured his services.

Ronaldo's lawyers claim the world footballer of the year is a free-agent, having obtained his release from Barcelona last Friday when he bought out his contract for four billion pesetas (\$27.6 million).

But FIFA rules state that a player cannot buy out his contract for the purposes of obtaining an international transfer.

The Spanish Federation has been informed by FIFA that the 'buyouts' or withdrawal clauses in Spanish league contracts are valid for domestic transfers only.

Moves abroad must be negotiated by the two teams.

"The provision is strictly Spanish law and does not apply internationally," said FIFA Deputy Secretary Michel Zen-Ruffinen.

"The Italian club apparently believes the rule applies everywhere and once a player is free on Spanish territory is free to sign wherever."

According to Ruffinen there has only been one instance where a player has bought out his contract to obtain a transfer, Russian Valeri Karpin making use of the provision to jump from one Spanish club to another.

"That move was recognised as valid but that was within the country," said Zen-Ruffinen.

FIFA said it had not yet been asked to intervene in the increasingly complicated dispute although it had received a complaint from the Spanish Federation submitted on behalf of Barcelona.

The complaint claims that Inter are in violation of FIFA article 13, which states that, any club wishing to talk to a player under contract to another club must obtain permission from his current club first.

"This apparently has not been done," said Zen-Ruffinen.

Asked whether Inter would negotiate directly with Barcelona, Moratti said "no. We won't negotiate. Absolutely not."

But if Inter are forced to negotiate directly with Barcelona, who recently signed Ronaldo until 2004, they are bound to face a massive transfer fee.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) responded to Ruffinen's comments by backing the Italian club.

"The FIGC will support Inter and will ask the Spanish federation to grant an international transfer in relation to the paid deposit. On the contract with the player Ronaldo," the federation said in a statement.

Barcelona, who play Real Betis in the Spanish Cup final on Saturday, have hinted that Ronaldo, who has said he will never play for Barca again, could be named in the team.

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Swiss quit cheese sponsors

BERNE (R) — The Swiss ski team's flashy yellow suits with the cheese-hole motif will be scrapped from next season after the national federation and their cheese sponsors said they were parting ways on Wednesday. The Swiss Cheese Union said it would not be renewing its contract, begun in 1992, after the 1998 winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. The team relied on the semi-government organisation to provide a huge wedge of financing, totalling 1.8 million Swiss francs (\$1.3 million) last year. "We regret it (the decision) because the cheese union was not only a good partner financially, but also because athletes could identify with the product," Swiss Skiing Association Director Josef Zehnhäusern said. "The dress was unique."

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TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "1"

John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis & Kevin Kline ... in

FIERCE CREATURES

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"

Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh ... in

GONE WITH THE WIND

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA

Jean Claude Van Damme ... in

MAXIMUM RISK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Tom Cruise...in
JERRY MAGUIRE

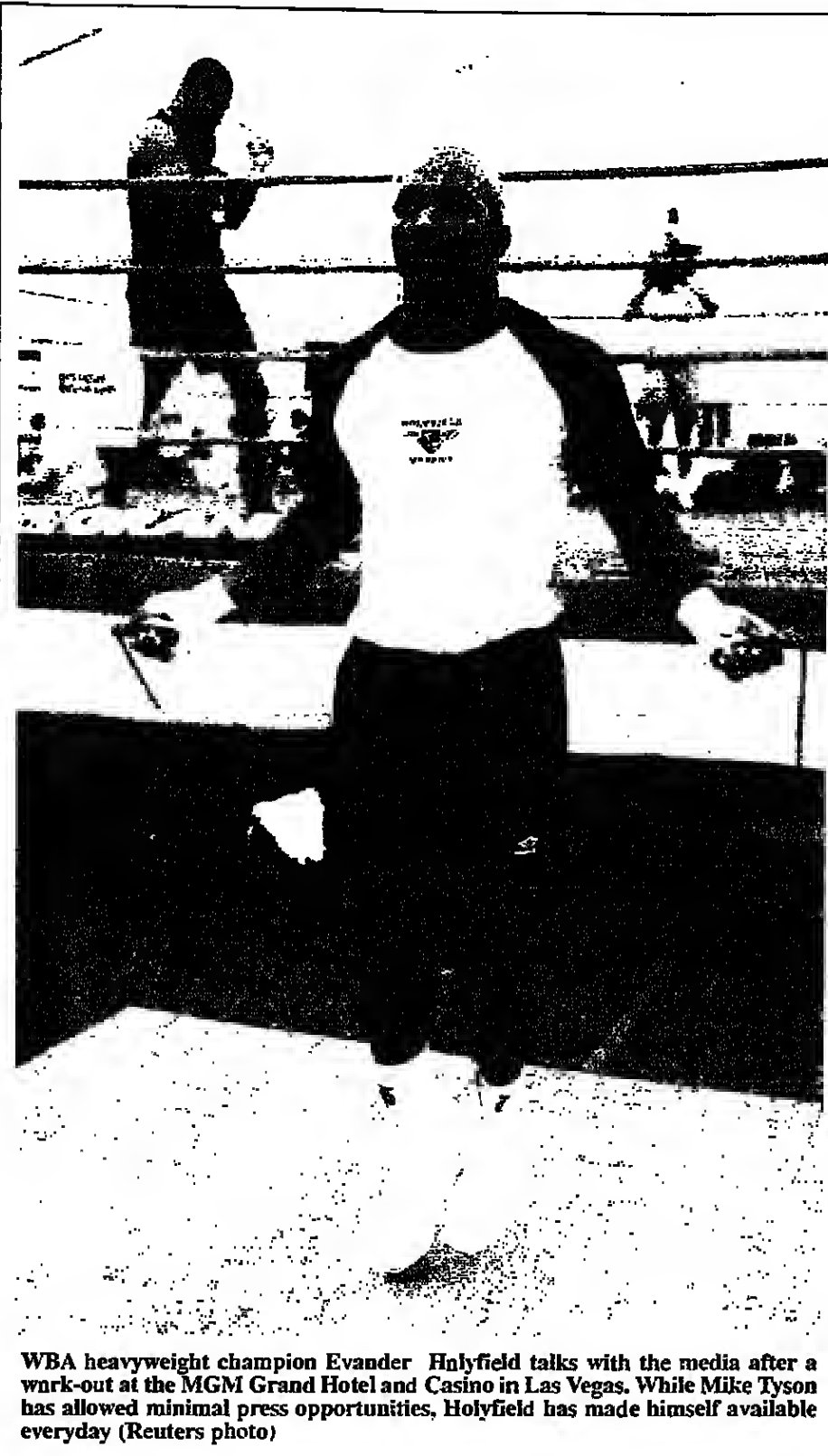
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CONCORD "2"
Michael Jordan...in
SPACEJAM

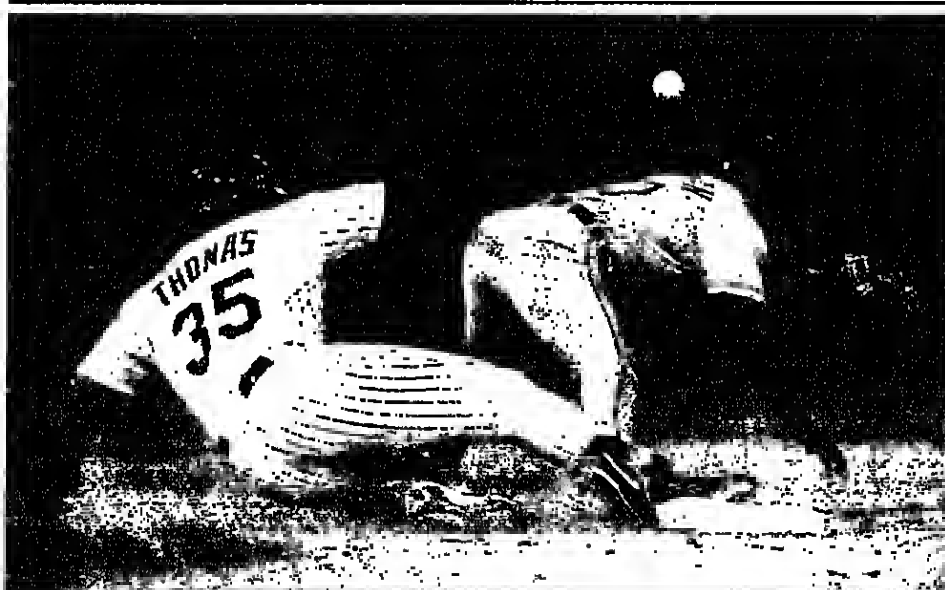
Shows: 3:30, 6:00

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The actors are on annual leave
The theatre will reopen July 2, 1997



WBA heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield talks with the media after a work-out at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. While Mike Tyson has allowed minimal press opportunities, Holyfield has made himself available everyday (Reuters photo)



Chicago White Sox baserunner Frank Thomas (L) is safe as he slides back into second base on a fly out by Albert Belle in left field in the fifth inning of game in Chicago's Comiskey Park, June 24, as Kansas City Royals second baseman Jose Offerman (R) can't hold onto the ball (Reuters photo)

American League				National League			
Cleveland	10	Minnesota	5	San Francisco	4	San Diego	1
New York	12	Detroit	9	Cincinnati	7	Montreal	6
Boston	9	Toronto	6	Florida	4	Philadelphia	1
Chicago	4	Kansas City	0	New York	6	Atlanta	5
Baltimore	6	Milwaukee	2	Pittsburgh	8	Houston	3
Anaheim	7	Texas	6	St. Louis	7	Chicago	2
Oakland	4	Seattle	1	Colorado	6	Los Angeles	2

Summer Music Classes

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The National Music Conservatory

Announces opening registration in the 1997 summer course. The course offers all interested of all ages to enroll in one of the following classes:

Oud	Violin	Flute	Piano	Music Reading
Qanoun	Viola	Oboe	Guitar	(Solfeggio and
Nay	Cello	Clarinet	Harp	dictation)
	Contrabass	Saxophone		Theory

The course will be held in the period from Saturday 5 to Thursday 31 July 1997. All classes will be held twice a week.

Registration fee is:

- JD 10 per class (class duration 45 minutes)
- JD 7.5 per class (class duration 30 minutes)
- JD 2.5 for music reading or theory class

Registration is open until Thursday 3 July 1997
The National Music Conservatory
Jabal Amman, behind the Embassy of Kuwait
Tel. 687620/1

Rain wash out play at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Showers threatened to wash out Wednesday's entire schedule at Wimbledon, creating the potential for a huge backlog of matches and raising the possibility of the tournament extending into a third week.

Rain fell incessantly all morning, leaving no chance for play to start on schedule on the outside courts at 12 p.m. (1100 GMT) or centre court and court 1 at 2 p.m. (1300 GMT).

With only 16 matches completed on Monday due to rain, the tournament already was behind schedule, with several first-round matches still to be played.

With the forecast calling for more wet weather the rest of the week, referee Alan Mills was faced with a



Spectators queue in the rain outside the All England Lawn Tennis Club on the third day of Wimbledon. The Championships faced delays due to the rain, which was forecast to continue for the rest of the day (Reuters photo)

daunting task of juggling the schedule.

"I say, 'oh, dear,' and one or two more words," Mills said. "It's early in the tournament. We can take mea-

sures to accelerate the program such as scheduling matches earlier in the day."

Mills said he wasn't considering drastic measures yet.

"We can take one or two days of this," he said. "Obviously, it compacts the program later on. But we have the time to finish on time given a fair crack from

the weather."

In the 121-year history of Wimbledon, there have been 27 days when a whole day's play has been washed out, including three times in the last 10 years — 1987, 1991 and 1992.

There was speculation that officials would consider scheduling matches on the middle Sunday, a break with tradition that has occurred only once, in 1991 after the wettest first week ever.

But officials appeared more likely to consider extending the tournament beyond the second week. That has happened several times recently, including last year when the semifinals and finals of the women's doubles were held on the third Monday.

Grass courts take their toll on 2nd day

LONDON (R) — World No. 2 Michael Chang took a long, winding road out of Wimbledon on Tuesday as the men's draw waved goodbye to a quarter of its seeded contenders at the first hurdle.

An extraordinary final set fightback from 5-1 down to 6-5 ahead almost saved Chang from the chop against Australian Todd Woodbridge, but his eventual 7-6 3-6 6-2 3-6 8-6 defeat merely reflected the trend elsewhere.

French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten also lost in five sets to American Justin Gimelstob, fabled seventh seed Mark Philippoussis was unable to claw back his overnight deficit against Greg Rusedski and another Briton, Chris Wilkinson, proved too tough for Swede Jonas Bjorkman.

With Jim Courier and Pat Cash, both former Grand Slam champions, also hitting the dust, it further emphasised the holes now appearing at the forefront of the men's game.

For various reasons, only six of the world's top 16 are still in contention with just one round gone, and had Australian Pat Rafter not

struggled back from two sets down, none of the four semifinalists at this month's French Open would have been present in the second round at the All England Club.

This sort of crazy form guide is becoming the norm, even in the traditional environment of Wimbledon where only a retrospective decision that defending champion Richard Krajicek should be regarded as a seed prevented the first all-undefeated final last year.

Chang's demise, though, could not be described as the biggest shock of all time given his past record on grass.

The fifth seed has now won only one match at Wimbledon in three years, yet will reflect on his three-hour 54 minute contest against Woodbridge as one he should have won.

He had outlasted the same opponent in five sets in their first meeting in the second round of Wimbledon in 1993, and appeared to have Woodbridge on the ropes after the Australian doubles specialist, ranked 37th in the world, had watched a huge lead disintegrate in the closing stages.

The American even saved

four break points before scrambling into the lead at 6-5, only for Woodbridge to rediscover his range and avoid what would also have been his second successive first round defeat.

"I would rate that the biggest win of my career," said Woodbridge. "The only other times I've managed to play on centre court, I've always come up against former champions and I've lost."

Chang, who played with his right knee strapped after slipping at Rosmalen last week, was typically phlegmatic afterwards. "It's a little bit disappointing, but I have the rest of the season to look forward to."

On a day when four other Australians — Jason Stoltenberg, Todd Larkham, Sandon Stolle and Mark Woodforde — scored good wins, it was ironic that Philippoussis should among those heading for the exit.

He lasted only 14 more minutes as Rusedski completed a 7-6 7-6 6-3 win to register an emphatic victory in the shoot-out between the two fastest recorded servers in tennis.

It was ironic that Wilkinson should join the Canadian-born left-hander in the

winners' circle as the former made himself unavailable to play Davis Cup in protest at what he saw as Rusedski's calculated switch of nationality two years ago.

His 7-6 0-6 5-7 6-3 6-4 win, though, came against an opponent who beat Pete Sampras less than a fortnight ago and, with Tim Henman already through, Britain's profile is now rising fast.

The U.S. contingent, in contrast, are experiencing slim pickings, despite top seed Pete Sampras's easy 6-4 6-4 6-2 outing against Swede Mikael Tillstrom.

Courier, for example, has won only two matches in four visits since he reached the final in 1993, Andre Agassi remains conspicuous by his absence and recent hopefuls Maliva Washington and Todd Martin are also missing.

Courier's conqueror Michael Stich, champion in 1991 but retiring this year, will test American resolve further when he meets Gimelstob in the second round, while Boris Becker may yet be the man to throw a spanner in the Sampras machine.

Becker, back after his

long-standing wrist problems, beat Marcos Aurelio Gorriz of Spain 6-3 6-2 6-3 and remains on course to face Sampras in the last eight.

In his 14th year at Wimbledon, Boris Becker knows this could be his last chance for another Grand Slam title. And the All England Club would be the perfect setting.

"As long as I'm in tennis, in a very competitive way, I think I have a chance at Wimbledon," Becker said.

Becker won the first of his three Wimbledon titles at the age of 17 in 1985, adding victories in 1986 and 1989. He has also won the Australian open twice and the U.S. Open once.

Last year, Becker's Wimbledon title hopes were wrecked when he damaged tendons in his right wrist returning, 8939 in a third-round match against Neville Godwin.

16-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova thrashed Chanda Rubin 6-1 6-1 in a performance which prompted one questioner to ask if she thought she could go all the way to the final. Kournikova, significantly, declined to rule it out.

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شركة الخشب

Family of dead fugitive accuse police of killing him, corruption

By Tanya Habbouja
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The natural death of Mohammad Ziyad from Zibet Al Wasatiyeh in the Irbid Governorate was actually an assassination carried out by corrupt police officials, his family members claim.

"The police are lying, [the death] is dirty and hidden," uncle of the deceased, Mohammad Dheeh said.

On the night of the attempted arrest, Ziyad was alone in the house with his brother and sister, Dr. Dheeh said.

Dr. Dheeh maintains that when three police cars and a mini-bus arrived at the house, the electricity was cut off.

Ziyad then became frightened and hid in a bedroom, Dr. Dheeh said.

"When Abdullah [the brother] answered the door, police hit him twice on the head with the butt of the gun," he said. "Abdullah and his sister then ran to the village to seek help."

When they returned after 10 minutes with relatives,

Ziyad was dead with police surrounding him, he added. "Police pretended that they found Ziyad dead and the lies began," Dr. Dheeh told the Jordan Times.

Police discovered Samer Mohammad Ziyad, 29, dead on the floor when they arrived to arrest him. Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Tuesday.

Suspected of arson, theft, forgery, and fraud crimes, Ziyad fell dead in his house as a result of a coronary attack, police officials stated.

The PSD said that Ziyad had escaped previous police attempts to arrest him, and when police obtained a search warrant Monday, June 23rd they discovered his dead body.

However, Mr. Ziyad's family members claim that the police murdered him and are lying to cover up corruption.

The Jordan Times was unable to get a statement from the police department, Wednesday.

Dr. Dheeh said that the murder was the end result of "shady relations formulated during Ziyad's incarceration

with two men from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID)."

Dr. Dheeh said that Irbid police are "so corrupt that you could bribe them with a sandwich."

According to Dr. Dheeh, the accused had served a two-year jail sentence for cheque fraud and had maintained a clean record since his early December 1996 release.

He added that two CID men had often visited Ziyad subsequent to his release, and had most probably been involved in illegal dealings.

After Ziyad's prison release, he left to Baghdad to seek employment in April, despite the fact that his passport had been confiscated after his arrest. Dr. Dheeh explained.

"How can a supposed fugitive leave to Baghdad without a passport and return to Jordan without arrest?" Dr. Dheeh asked.

When Ziyad returned to Jordan in May, his mother reported seeing the two men from the CID visit him often, Dr. Dheeh said.

"His mother witnessed an argument between her son and the men, and problems arose soon after," he said.

Dr. Dheeh maintained that his nephew had never reported any health problems, so the autopsy report was unbelievable.

"We refuse to bury Ziyad until another autopsy is performed from a different committee," he said.

Dr. Dheeh maintained that a "true" autopsy would reveal that Ziyad had been murdered, and that bruises would be documented in the report.

"Why did the criminal investigators not investigate the scene of the crime?" Dr. Dheeh asked. "What are they hiding?"

Dr. Dheeh said that the family lawyer would reveal the names of the implicated Thursday morning, as well as "crushing evidence."

"One of the badges fell from the policemen and we found it by Ziyad's body," he said.

Police officials were not available for comment Wednesday evening.

Israel's military defends Barak after Hanegbi's Knesset claims

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's military establishment was up in arms Wednesday over accusations in parliament by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi that Labour leader, Ehud Barak abandoned soldiers wounded in a training accident when he was army chief of staff.

"Whoever says Barak abandoned the wounded is lying," retorted General Amnon Shahak, the current chief-of-staff, in an interview on Israel Radio Wednesday.

Mr. Shahak said he was present at the 1992 accident during a top-secret training mission and that Mr. Barak oversaw the evacuation of the wounded. Five soldiers were killed when a missile misfired during the exercise.

A 1994 Israeli report in the Yediot Aharonot

newspaper first raised questions concerning Mr. Barak's handling of the accident, alleging that he left the scene quickly and tried to cover up certain aspects of the incident.

Mr. Hanegbi brought the incident up Tuesday during debate on a no-confidence motion filed by Labour against the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Responding to Mr. Barak's defence of the no-confidence vote and strong criticism of Mr. Netanyahu's policies, Mr. Hanegbi suddenly took out a copy of the 1994 newspaper article concerning the training accident and accused the former general of having "fled" his comrades.

Mr. Hanegbi's remarks sparked an uproar among both opposition and government deputies, several

of whom demanded that Mr. Netanyahu publicly condemn his minister's statement.

The Yediot Aharonot Wednesday said it never reported that Mr. Barak had abandoned the wounded in 1992, although press reports did charge that the army chief had the military censors bar the release of information about the training mission.

The exercise involved soldiers of the elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit who were preparing a mission which remains top secret to this day. Foreign press reports said the rocket which misfired was to have been used to assassinate a foreign personality, possibly Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein or a chief of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hizbollah.

UNICEF says Cairo court ruling on excision a setback

GENEVA (AFP) — The Cairo court decision to overturn a year-old health ministry ban on female excision in Egypt is a setback in the fight against the practice, a UNICEF spokesman said Wednesday.

"We are very disappointed. This is a setback," Patrick McCormick, spokesman for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

A Cairo administrative court ruled Tuesday that the ban on female circumcision by the health ministry was an "abuse of power" and ruled to reverse the ban.

UNICEF will wait to see the ramifications of the decision but the U.N. body's fight against the controversial operation,

carried out on children, will be made more difficult in Egypt, Mr. McCormick said.

The ancient practice of female excision, in which all or part of the clitoris and sometimes the labia is removed, is usually carried out on girls aged around 10.

The practice continues to be widespread in Egypt, where 97 per cent of Muslim and Christian women are circumcised, according to a study released in February.

The Egyptian Organisation of Human Rights has estimated that nearly 3,600 girls, both Muslims and Coptic Christians, undergo excisions each day in Egypt.

U.S. checking reports of American's arrest in Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States was trying to confirm reports Tuesday that a U.S. citizen had been arrested in Iran but confirmation could be difficult to obtain, the State Department said.

"We have seen the reports and, of course, it's very difficult for us to know with certainty whether an American has been recently detained by Iran," State Department spokesman John Dinger told reporters. Noting that Washington had no diplomatic relations with Iran, he said inquiries were being made through the Swiss embassy there.

Kuwaiti magazine wins law suit on 'lesbianism in Kuwait' report

KUWAIT (AP) — A court has thrown out a lawsuit by a teacher who accused a magazine of publishing without permission her comments that lesbianism was rampant at Kuwait University.

The comments late last year by Alia Shuaib, a philosophy professor at the university, sparked student protests at the campus.

A university investigation recommended her dismissal, but it has not been ratified by the education minister.

A criminal court ruled on

Tuesday that Ms. Shuaib was fully aware she was being interviewed on the record for Al Hadath magazine when she said lesbianism was "very widespread" at Kuwait University, said the magazine's lawyer, Nahes Enezi.

Ms. Shuaib acknowledged using the words, but claimed she was only chatting off-the-record with the reporter, who also was her student. She said the unsolicited interview damaged her social status.

"We presented the tape in which she says 'I thank you

for this interview,' and photos of her speaking with the tape recorder in front of her," Mr. Enezi told the Associated Press.

Had she won the suit, the magazine's editor and the reporter could have faced six months in prison or a fine of 1,000 dinars. She could have then sought damages in a civil court.

Sex is a sensitive subject in this traditional Muslim society. In April, another court labelled the interview "indecent" and fined Al Hadath 75 dinars.

PNA blames Israel for difficult economic conditions

RAMALLAH (AP) — The Palestinian labour minister said Wednesday that Israel is pushing more and more Palestinians into poverty with every new blow to the peace process, and their patience was running out.

"The economy suffers from Israeli measures of collective punishment every time something goes wrong with the peace talks," Samir Ghosheh told a news conference.

Israel's repeated security closures of Palestinian areas keep workers from their jobs, its delay in establishing safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza hinders commerce and the freeze in peace talks is scaring away investors, he said.

"The result will be an explosion, not only in the face of Israel but in the face of the Palestinian Authority (PNA)."

Mr. Ghosheh noted that in 1996, the Palestinians spent 99 days under a closure which sidelined much of the workforce of half a million.

Several years ago, 120,000 workers had permits to work in Israel and another 40,000 worked without permit, he said. Now, the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel is 50,000.

"During closures, unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is 60 per cent, the highest in the whole region. In normal conditions it is 29 per cent, and that is still high," Mr. Ghosheh said. "After each closure we start from zero."

In addition, he said, the Palestinian economy was suffering from Israeli non-compliance with various provisions of the Israel-PNA accords, in particular the safe passage and the much delayed airport and sea port projects in Gaza. Tight border restrictions, meanwhile, make it difficult for Palestinians to export by land, or to find work abroad in Arab countries, he said.

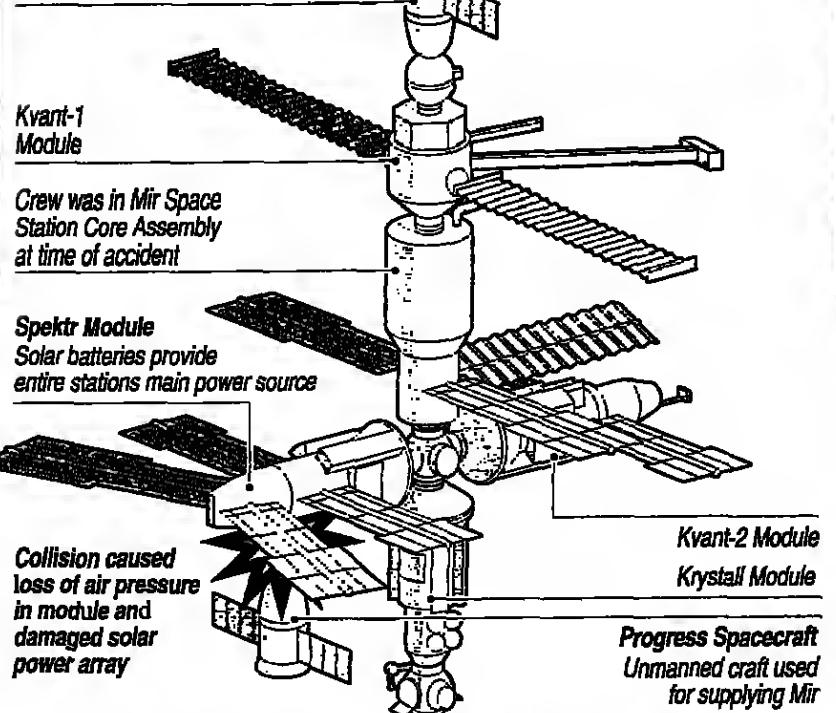
Compounding the problem is the Palestinians' high birthrate which adds 40,000 a year to the workforce, Mr. Ghosheh added.

MIR SPACE STATION COLLISION

An unmanned cargo craft slammed into the Mir space station on Wednesday during a manual docking exercise causing loss of pressure in part of the station but no immediate danger to the three-person crew

Soyuz-T spacecraft
Can be used for return
to Earth in emergency

Mir has been orbiting Earth since 1986 and is a combination of several Russian space craft



KEY SPACE ACCIDENTS

- Apr 1967 First Soviet cosmonaut dies in space
- Jul 1971 Three Soviets die during re-entry after 24 days in space
- Jan 1986 Seven astronauts including a school teacher die aboard Challenger shuttle
- Dec 1994 Western Europe's 70th Ariane sent PanAmSat-3 into the Atlantic when third stage of rocket malfunctioned
- Jan 1995 Chinese-designed Long March 2E rocket carrying a telecommunications satellite exploded and crashed to earth
- Oct 1995 An unmanned Conestoga rocket exploded 45 seconds after blastoff from NASA facility in Virginia
- Feb 1996 A rocket carrying an Intelsat 708 communications satellite exploded soon after takeoff from China's launch site in Xichang

Source: NASA

REUTERS

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Bomb tears through Algerian train, injuring at least fifty

ALGIERS (AP) — A bomb ripped through a railroad car at a train station outside Algiers Wednesday, tearing the car in half and injuring more than 50 people, emergency workers said.

The government — which has tried to play down the violence of the country's bloody insurgency — did not immediately confirm the blast, and state radio and television stations were not immediately reporting it.

But the Al Harrash rail station, outside the capital's eastern limit, remained filled with smoke an hour after the mid-morning blast.

Blood stains, cushioned seats, glass and even train doors were strewn across the platform. Emergency workers on the scene said the explosion was caused

by a home-made bomb.

Most of the more than 50 victims had been taken to nearby hospitals, said the emergency workers, who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisal.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but suspicion fell on Islamist, whose five-year insurgency has left more than 60,000 people dead, the daily Al Watan newspaper Wednesday said.

The militants had killed 70 people in recent days with armed attacks and a bombing in the region of M'sila, around 300 kilometres southeast of Algiers.

The national government did not immediately confirm these attacks, though local officials from the region on Tuesday said 18 people had been killed last

week in the village of Mouzaia.

Al Watan recently has been the only Algerian news organisation to report the incidents of violence. The government earlier this year threatened to punish news media who publish or broadcast what it considers unconfirmed reports.

Violence between security forces and the insurgents had diminished since Algeria's June 5 parliamentary elections.

President Liamine Zerroual's National Democratic Rally Party won the most seats, partly on promises to end the random bombings and massacres in rural villages.

The insurgency began in 1992, after the army cancelled legislative elections that Islamist parties were poised to win.

Japanese Red Army member homesick for Japan — report

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Red Army (JRA) member Kozo Okamoto, the sole survivor of a bloody attack on Tel Aviv's Lod airport in 1972, is homesick and wants to come home from prison in Beirut, a report said Wednesday.

"I want to go back to Japan. This (wish) hasn't gone around much in Japan so I would like you to spread the word there if possible," Okamoto said in a tape recording obtained by the Kyodo News Agency (KNA).

The recording, made in prison, was provided by sources close to the JRA in Tokyo, KNA said.

Okamoto, who took part in the Lod airport attack which left more than two dozen people dead, is on trial in Lebanon with four other members of the JRA.

The five Japanese — four men and one woman — are charged with falsifying documents, using false passports and illegally entering and residing in

Lebanon — charges which carry jail sentences of up to seven years.

However, they have not been charged with any offences relating to their membership of the JRA, which fought alongside Palestinian groups and is admired by many Arabs as an ally in the struggle against Israel.

On trial besides Okamoto are Kazuo Tohira, 44, Haruo Wako, 48, Masao Adachi, 57, and the sole woman, Mariko Yamamoto, 56. They were arrested in February.

Okamoto, who is reportedly suffering from psychological problems and undergoing treatment, was released by Israel in 1985 in an exchange with Palestinian guerrillas.

In the recording, Adachi denied reports he would try to commit suicide should the group be extradited to Japan, saying he meant that death in prison formed part of their strategy.

Also, records of preliminary questioning of fellow

member Tohira by the Beirut court reveal Okamoto and Tohira had travelled to China in mid-1996 under false passports.

Records of the questioning, required under Lebanese law before the opening of a trial, indicate that Okamoto, whose whereabouts since his release in 1985 were unknown until his arrest, lived in hiding since around 1994 by moving to different apartments in Beirut.

Last year, he went to China to meet with JRA supporters and obtain additional false passports before returning to Lebanon on October 22, the sources close to the group told KNA.

Japan's ambas or to Lebanon has ur d the government to agn to the extradition of the fi 2. Japan and Leban are not linked by an extradition treaty, and it is up to the Lebanese cabinet to decide whether to hand over the five after the trial ends.

C8LUMN

Bangladesh prostitutes demonstrate for rights

DHAKA (R) — Hundreds of Bangladeshi female sex workers evicted from a brothel area last month demonstrated in Dhaka on Tuesday, demanding the reopening of the area and restoration of their rights. Over a dozen women's rights groups joined the demonstrators in support of the prostitutes. Some 1,000 prostitutes had been driven out of Dhaka's 200-year-old red-light "Kandupatti" area by residents in May and their homes demolished. Witnesses said hundreds of residents led by local commissioner Hossain Mollah gathered in Old Dhaka City and knocked down the "Kandupatti" brothel. Police said residents living around the brothel complained that the prostitutes' presence and behaviour threatened their social lives and the moral values of their children.

Cambridge University all-woman college admits sex-change man

LONDON (AFP) — An all-female college at the prestigious Cambridge University has been rocked by realisation that one of its newest fellows was exactly that — a fellow — until a sex-change operation, a press report said Tuesday. The statutes of Newnham College, founded in 1871 and now the only all-woman college at Cambridge, make it clear that all fellows — or members of the teaching staff — must be women. But the college now features on its staff Rachel Padman, 43, a physicist specialising in star formation, who underwent a sex-change operation to become a woman in 1982 but who legally remains a man, according to the Times. Although Onora O'Neill, Newnham's principal, knew of Padman's history before offering her the fellowship last October, news is only now starting to spread around the college, the paper said.

Van Gogh landscape sells for 8.8 million pounds

LONDON (AFP) — A watercolour landscape by the Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh sold for 8.8 million pounds, making it the most expensive modern painting sold in Europe since 1990, auctioneers Sotheby's said. "Harvest in Provence" (La Moisson en Provence) had not been seen in public for almost 50 years when it was unveiled by Sotheby's before the sale. It was bought by an anonymous telephone bidder. The most expensive modern painting ever sold in Europe is Picasso's "Les Femmes d'Alger" which fetched 12.5 million pounds seven years ago at a London auction.

4,000-year-old Egyptian crown found in family home goes on display

NEWBURY (AFP) — A 4,000-year-old Egyptian crown was discovered in an English family sitting room goes on show to the public for the first time Wednesday. The diadem is thought to have been taken by the present owner's grandparents from the bandaged head of Queen Neferhotep in her tomb near the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. Neferhotep died 4,000 years ago. The owner, who was not named, only discovered the crown was valuable a year ago when it was seen by an expert. He has loaned it for 12 months to an exhibition at Highclere Castle, near Newbury, Berkshire, west of London. Highclere is the family home of the Earl of Carnarvon, whose grandfather discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen in Egypt with Howard Carter.